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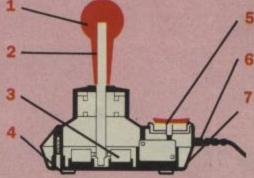
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FAIRLY GOOD FEATURES

30 CALL THE ZZAP! HOTLINE

Or else you won't win the amazingly mega prize on offer.

52 THE GERMAN INVASION

We shone a bright light into the eyes of the German software houses, and made them talk.

87 VOTE FOR THE **GAMES OF 1988!**

And win £50 of free software!

92 RERELEASE ROUND

More oldies but goldies given a blood trans-fusion by a budget label.

GOOD GAMES

13 TIMES OF LORE

Is it an RPG or a standard arcade adventure? Is it a mixture of both? Whichever it is, we liked it! Or did we?

14 TOTAL ECLIPSE

The best implementation of Incentive's FREESCAPE system yet.

25 MICROPROSE SOCCER

'Ere we go, 'ere we go, 'ere we went to the ZZAP! review you've all been waiting for. Jolly Sensible larkabout toe-poking fun.

Solid 3D and some neat graphical embellishments – but that's not all that makes this 16-bit version of the classic 64 game a Gold Medal winner. Nope. Not a bit.

67 ELIMINATOR

Hewson's ace Trailblazer variant almost scrapes a Sizzler.

QUITE GOOD COMPETITIONS

Finland, FINLAND Finland, the country where we'd quite like you to see a real TOTAL ECLIPSE, thanks to incentive.

84 THE ZZAP! AMIGA SURVEY

For answering just a few teensy-weensy questions, you can win one of 50 clock/cal-culator/radio thingies.

94 WIN AN ACE CAMERA

And loads of other freebies, courtesy of that Very Nice Software House, Cascade.



RATHER GOOD REGULARS

ZEDITORIAL

The Fat Boy wibbles porkily on, bidding Virtually Fat Free Paul Glancey a chubby farewell

8 THE WORD

More news, previews and silly bits, including a colour Ecto and Endo Morph! Woooooh!

ZZAPBACK

A single page this month: there were no mainstream Sizzlers back in Issue 21. Miserable sods.

33 CHUCK VOMIT

The green and slimy one has innocent fun with INGRID'S BACK on the 64 and abuses DREAM ZONE on the Amiga.

37 ZZAP! RRAP

Some serious points about humorous subjects, the winner of our cartoon competition and a Gordon Houghton lookalike – all in the section that YOU write.

Martin 'Martin' Walker wanders willfully towards a happy ending. Or does he . . . ?

45 PG'S DYING TIPS

Our bijou diminutive tipster-ette says a fond farewell and leaves us with a fab map of LAST NINJA 2

56 THE GIRLY CHALLENGE

Will a brave and hardy person from Clwyd survive the talents of the madcap zany Female One in TETRIS?

58 THE SCORELORD SPEAKS

And has one or two things to say about Tarby, Derek Batey, Tommy Steele and Roy Castle. Unless we edited that bit out. Er . . .

60 ZZAP! RESULTS (WITH FREE AQUALUNG)

The Fishy Megastar introduces a mystery personality and announces the results from the Christmas Special.

90 BOUNCY BUDGET BOOBS

And some good ones, too.

95 CLASSIC COMPUTER" BORNE!

Devil Man Croucher reveals more about the essential silliness of human nature when confronted by machines composed of silicon and plastic.

97 CHARTS/NEXT MONTH

What's top of the pops and what's coming down your way next month? What the hell are we asking you for anyway?

EDITORIAL 47 Gravel Hill, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1QS 2: 0584 5851/2/3 Editor: Gordon Houghton Assistant Editor: Kati Hamza Software Co-ordinator: Paul Glancey Staff Writers: Matthew Evans, Lloyd Mangram Design Kendrick Senior Designer: Wayne Allen Assistant Designers: Melvyn Fisher, Yvonne Priest Editorial Assistants: Viv Vickress, Caroline Blake Centributing Writers: Mel Croucher, Martin Walker Photography: Cameron Pound, Gnmes Production Manager: Jonathan Rignal Editorial Director: Roger Senior Designers: Melvyn Editorial Director: Roger Bennet Advertisement Manager: Neil Dyson Advertisement Assistants: Andrew Smales, Sarah Chapman Assistant Road, London VI. Printed in England by Carlisle Web Offset, Newtown Trading Estate, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 7NF – a member of the BPCC Group. Distribution by COMPETTION RULES The Editor's decision is final linal matters relating to adjudication and while we offse prizes in good faith, believing them to be available, if something unfoward happens (like a game that has been offered as a prize being scrapped) we resequences we've written to you stating that you have won a prize and it doesn't turn up, in which case drop Vivien Vickress of Comparision Backers in a later issue of ZZAPi. No correspondence can be entired into regarding the correspondence in part or in whole without the written consent of the copyright-holders. We cannot undertake to return anything sent into ZZAPi—including written and photographic material, hardware or software — unless it is accompanied by a suitably stamped, a envelope. Unspicited written or photographic material is welcome, and if used in the magazine is paid for at our current rates.



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A NEWSFIELD PUBLICATION





AN INCRECULABLE BROWN OF FUR

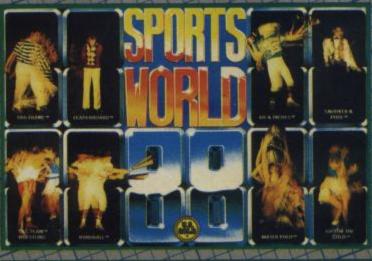
a, beyond calculation; unpredictable; indeterminable; very great

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10 GRMES

15 GAMES

"HISTORY IN THE MAKING The First Three Years



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I bet most of you didn't know that the Editorial page is just about the last one to be written every month. Well there's an

what can you find in this Paul Glancey-sized Issue? Well, one thing you won't find is Paul Glancey – except for his farewell Tips section. Our petite Geordie POKEr has finally succumbed to The Other Side (cue dramatic fanfare). No, he's not dead, he's just opted for an office with more room in it than this one. From now on, please address all your tips, hints, maps, listings and cheats to that Flint psycho, Maff Evans. This also means that there's a Staff Writer's job going

up for grabs – so get penning!
Meanwhile, back at the ranch,
Issue 46 is full of goodies: there's
the Readers Awards, with loads
of free games on offer; a preview of the new wave in German software; and, most importantly, the start of a new form of competition and service to you. Scan pages 30-31 and you'll know what we're talking

In the Rrap you'll find the winner of our cartoon



A Herman the Wonder Pterodactyl takes to the air . . .

CAMES DEVIEWED

INGRID'S BACK (S)

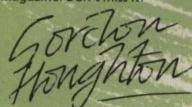
competition – but thanks go to all of you who sent in some dead funny ones: if we get any more, we'll print them in a future Rrap

we'll print them in a future Rrap (if there's enough space).

The most major thing you've probably noticed is the absence of a cassette, but I'm sure you're all happy with the price coming back down to £1.25. The Robocop/Parallax tape isn't the last ever ZZAP! Mega Cassette to appear, but it'll be the last one for a while.

Meanwhile keep an eve out

Meanwhile, keep an eye out for Issue 47 – it's a new look (waargh!) issue, packed with all the reviews that just missed our deadline for this one (and there are LOADS). We're promising you more information about the games you buy, better reviews and a brighter look to the magazine. Don't miss it!



Gordon Houghton



... but finds flying with plastic wings difficult



▲ Is it The Proclaimers? Is it a group of mutant aliens about to take over the earth? No, it's a bunch of idiots in stupid glasses



Could one of these heavily-disguised creatures be the New Reviewer? If you think you could write better than a plastic fish or Horace the Pelican, write in today with a sample review!



▲ (Sob) . . . Paul Glancey, the pint-sized Keeper of the Tips, wanders off in the vague direction of Somewhere Else.

GAMES KEVIEWED	1	LIETCETMININ	
Control of the Contro		JET SET WILLY	92
		KNIGHTMARE	93
ACE 2	92	LIVE AND LET DIE	26
BLIP VIDEO CLASSICS	91	MAD FLUNKY	93
CAPTAIN BLOOD (Amiga)	73	MICROPROSE SOCCER	25
DOUBLE DRAGON	20	NEUROMANCER	21
DREAM ZONE (Amiga)	33	OCEAN CONQUEROR	90
EAGLE'S NEST	93	OFFSHORE WARRIOR (Amiga)	66
ELIMINATOR (Amiga)	67	OUT RUN (Amiga)	77
ELITE (Amiga) (GM)	63	PIONEER PLAGUE (Amiga)	76
ESPIONAGE	16	RACK'EM	27
ESPIONAGE (Amiga)	68	RAMBO 3	26
EXPLODING FIST +	17	RETURN OF THE JEDI	22
GAPLUS	91	SIDE ARMS (Amiga)	71
THE GROWING PAINS OF ADRIAN MOLE		SORCERY + (Amiga)	72
	93		66
GUERILLA WAR	22	STAR PAWS	92
HELLFIRE ATTACK	20	THUNDERBLADE	16
HELLEIRE ATTACK (Amina)	72		10

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER (Amiga) 68 TRIVIAL PURSUIT 2 (Amiga)
INTERNATIONAL RUGBY SIMULATOR 90 TURBO TRAX (Amiga)

TOTAL ECLIPSE (S)

ADVERTISERS INDEX 78 12,32,98-99,100 78 69,75 54 59 86 70 2-3,6 89 INSTANT
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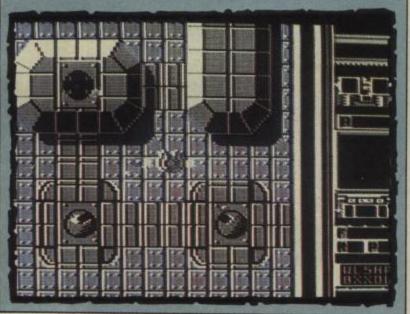
76



XENON THE 64!

Yes, it's true! Really it is: that ace vertically scrolling coin op quality shoot 'em up with more frustration than something really frustrating is about to jettison its load onto your 64! Phew, that was a long sentence.

Anyway, avid readers of Ye Olde ZZAP! magazyne wylle knowe that Xenon is dead good – so keep a look out for it! Until then, here's a screenshot to keep those fingers moist and that tongue a-dribblin'...



A LOADA BAALS



Currently awaited with sweating palms in the ZZAP! office is the latest offering from Psygnosis: Baal.

Yer basic mission is this: you're the leader of an elite force called the Time Warriors. Got that? Good. And you've got to guide them through no less than three different domains, each one full of monstrous demonic beasts with pointy teeth who'll do anything to make nasty porridge out of you.

Collect 18 machine components and face the might of Baal itself: fail and, well, the Earth won't be very

of Baal itself; fail and, well, the Earth won't be very

ECTO AND ENDO MORPH



A SUPER IDEA



Right, listen 'ere you lot – Supersoft are giving away £50,000 of software.

Why? I'll tell you why: it's all in aid of Barnardo's. Anyone who writes to Supersoft enclosing a donation to the charity will receive a program. When you write in, please state which computer you own, and stamps to the value of 42p, to cover the postage and packing. You can also say whether or not you want your donation returned if suitable software is not available.

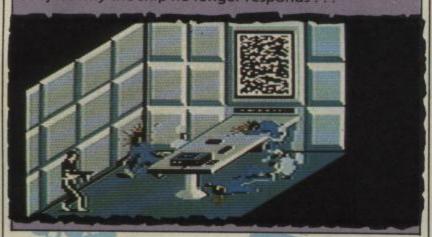
Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Barnardo's and sent to: Barnardo's Offer, Winchester House, Canning Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, HA3 750.

GET YOUR ARSON GEAR

Due to be released this month is (it says here) a 'horror movie in outer space'. In fact, it's a disk-based product (£14.95 to you, John. Whaddya mean, your name's not John?) called *Project Firestart*, featuring cinematic things like a nice musical score, rather nice fade outs and very nice movie animation.

Basically, it's 2066, and the spaceship Prometheus no longer responds to communication messages. It was on a mission called Firestart, destined to produce strong, durable labourers capable of helping Belters mine titanium and iridium on selected moons and asteroids.

No prizes for guessing who's going to have to find out just why the ship no longer responds.



JOY WITH THE 'STICKS

Powerplay, those people who provided us with the fab 'n' triff Cruiser range of joysticks, are bringing out another couple of alien-bashers.

The Mister Joystick's Crystal range are all designer clear with bright red fire buttons and pistol grip handle (oo-er,

etc), and were drawed and builded by the designers of the Zip Sticks. You've got a choice between the Crystal Standard (£14.99) or the Crystal Turbo (autofire – £16.99); and if either of them takes the same kind of punishment as the Cruisers, they'll be well worth looking out for they'll be well worth looking out for.

PLAYA LONGA GAZZA LINNA





Funky chunky Gremlin Graphics, fabled denizens of the software world and generally All Round Nice people, are about to spring a couple of new games on the unsuspecting 64-owning public.

back... hold me back... hold me back... I can't wait to tell you about them... What are these games? Aha, now there's a question. The first of them is the third product based on the sick-as-a-parrot Barcelona striker, Gazza Lineker:

this time it's his Hot Shots which will soon come under the ZZAP! team's microscopic scrutiny (well – Maff's scrutiny is certainly microscopic). This time it's yer basic footy sim – yer sliding tackles, yer corners, yer referee and his red card . . . In fact, one for footy and Gazza Linna fans everywhere

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, they're also programming Technocop, a game name not a million miles away from Ocean's Robocop. The gameplay, however, is a tad different. You're in charge of a high tach control car canable of high-tech sports car capable of speeds in excess of 200mph – as if this wasn't enough, you won't be alone on the roads. Say no more.

After that, it's off to a town full of

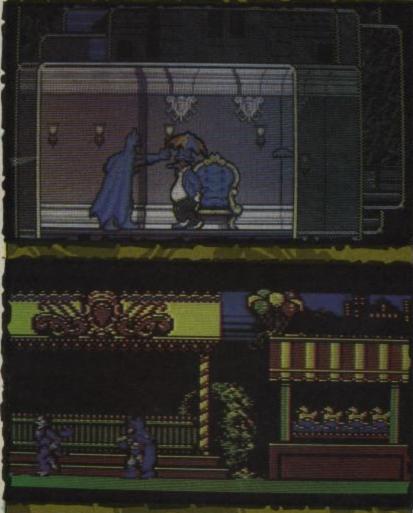
bad guys – and bad guys need capturing, don't they? Stay out of trouble and watch out for it – it should be in the shops now.

WHOLLY OCEAN BAT LICENCE

Batman!

OK, that's the self-indulgence over with, now on with the news. There are two versions of this game, both of which we're going to review next month, since they just eluded our deadline this time round. However, if you're wondering whether or not to buy either the Amiga or 64 version, wonder no longer. We'd definitely recommend you take a look, since they're both pretty fab 'n' triff: Ocean have pulled another cracking conversion out of the bag.

For more details, see next month's review; until then, look at the screenshots!



BYLINES' REVENGE

Dot dibby dot dot Grandslam, those cool 'n' froody dudes who brought you Pacmania on the 64 and Amiga, are about to provide you with interpretations of the licences for Thunderbirds and The Running Man . . . klick klick klick On the Better Dead Than Alien

packaging (64 version) you may see some recommendations from ZZAP! Ignore them - they apply to the Amiga version we reviewed: the 64

Amiga version we reviewed: the 64 version will be reviewed next issue, and isn't quite as good.

Whirr whirr klick Annand finally... those of you who entered the Armalyte comp and are still waiting for £1 Thalamus vouchers, be patient! It takes a long time to type out all those names, you know. Rest assured they'll be along soon.













WEC Le Mans is not a game -

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FEEL THE POVVER!
WECLE MANS
24



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ATARI ST

AMIGA C2495 AMIGA







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Gold Rush 11

... or you'll hate your-self. On four specially selected copies of ARMA-LYTE is a secret code – if your copy of Armalyte has the 'gold' code you've won a fabulous Eye Of The Storm plasma globe. Four 'Yellow' coded copies could win you a super prize too!



ES OF LORE

Origin/Microprose, £9.95 cassette, £14.95 disk

hings aren't looking too good in Albareth. For a start, nobody's seen hide nor hair of the High King or his son for 20 years. A regent has taken their place but he's losing his hold over the kingdom - it's not even safe for him to set his little tootsies out of the palace.

Being the sort to take advantage of any form of national upheaval, rogues, orcs, slimes (slimes?) and skeletons are getting their act together and turning the coun-tryside into one big seething mass of danger. Aargh! Can it get worse? It certainly can - the three artifacts which have ensured the kingdom's peace in the past are lost. (Shock, horror, oh no, etc.) Unless some fool adventurer tries to restore order, Albareth is lost.

Well, it's obvious who this fool adventurer is going to be, isn't it? Yup, you. Er... well, you in the guise of one of three characters,

I love adventures and all that stuff, so I was really pleased to see an arcade adventure

designed to get more people interested in RPGs. Well, Times of Lore is definitely user-friendly – you hardly have to read the instructions if you have the instructions if you have the instructions if you have the instructions if you don't want to and the icon-sysdon't want to and the icon-system means you need never let that hot little joystick out of your hand! There's an incredibly large environment to explore and, once you get into it, plenty to occupy your mind. However, it does take just slightly too long to get anywhere. At least half of the game involves travelling around a pretty samey environment killing orcs and collecting money – big deal! If you're a real joystick junky, you might find this a tad-ette too slow and boring. If you're the slightly more ponderous and thoughtful type, on the other hand, rush down to your nearest software stockist and nearest software stockist and give this top-quality package an energetic whirl.

anyway. Before you start, you pick an identity: Knight, Barbarian or Valkyrie. Each has their own abilities - the Valkyrie, for example, is weaker, but her exceptional agility makes up for it.

Starting out in the inn at Eralan, the capital, you move through the 13,000 (cor!) different screen locations (a top-quality, poster-sized map is included in the packaging) fighting monsters and performing tasks for the people that you meet.

A joystick-operated icon system allows you to pick up, drop, examine and use objects, talk to other characters or give them one of your possessions. In conversation mode, the screen flashes up a further menu of possible alternatives which vary according to the character. You can make chitchat



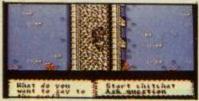
Well, if this was intended as a sort of halfway house between arcade action and RPG, it must have got lost somewhere in between. The arcade action is incredibly repetitive and involves very little skill; not only that, it takes so long to get to any of the role-playing parts that there just isn't enough happening at first to drive you wild with animal enthusiasm for any later aspect of the game. Shame really, because the icon-system works smoothly, the conversation mode is excellently presented and all the different magic objects could have made for lots of variety. If only there wasn't so much aimless wandering around . . .



▲ Times of Lore: lots of wandering around looking for treasure and trying to bash people over the head

or ask specific questions. Each time a new key word is mentioned, a gong sounds to let you know that there's something new to ask about.

enemies occasionally Killing reveals money, extra weapons or magical objects. Transportation scrolls, weapon scrolls and healing potions come in pretty useful



▲ Do you really think you should be going that way, Cam?

when your life-force is being drastically reduced by a bunch of smelly orcs.

Energy is replenished every time ou spend the night at an inn. On the disc version, your position is automatically saved so that next time you play, you can start at the inn at which you last slept. Good,



Hmmm . . .

Hmmm... well here we have one of those games that's great if you like this sort of thing but probably very boring if you don't. With its bold and colourful graphics (the scrolling's a bit jerky though) and its extensive and complex play environment there's plenty to keep any fat and enthusiastic RPG novice occupied. If on the other hand, you're one of those bleary-eyed people who hasn't got time to spare for anything other than a hardanything other than a hard-action, bash 'em into the ground sort of shoot 'em, beat ground sort of snoot 'em, beat 'em, smash everything you see 'em up, this just isn't for you. As for everyone else, £9.95 isn't much to pay for the sort of boxed package, gorgeous map and thick manual which normally comes a whole lot more expensive – is it?

PRESENTATION 95%

Really user-friendly menu sys-tem, top-quality packaging – ncluding colourful pøster-sized map - one load, and it's dead

GRAPHICS 75%

Colourful indoor and outdoor scenes plus a wide variety of ghoulish monsters – but the scrolling is quite jerky.

SOUND 60%

Atmospheric medieval title tune but in-game sound is limited to sparse spot effects.

HOOKABILITY 85%

The controls are so user-friendly and the packaging's so inviting that you just can't wait to have a

LASTABILITY 90%

Estimated playing time is 200-300 hours – that should keep you

OVERALL 80%

An original and very profession-ally executed RPG-style arcade



TOTAL ECLIPSE

Incentive, £9.95 cass, £12.95 disk

ODefeat the ancient Egyptian curse in Incentive's latest 3D stunner



Time: 26th October 1930. STOP. Place: pyramid of the Sun-God Re, Egypt. STOP. You have two hours to negate an ancient curse. STOP. Fail and the world will be destroyed. MESSAGE ENDS.

ast your mind back to an ancient time, a period when the people of Egypt built pyramids in honour of their kings and worshioped mysterious gods.

and worshipped mysterious gods.
The High Priest is angry. The
Egyptians are rebelling and refuse
to continue carrying out their usual
sacrifices to the Sun-God, Re. In
retaliation, the priest sets a terrible
curse upon the people of his land.

Only one person possesses knowledge of this terrible secret.

▼ So many doors to choose from in a world of mazes – one wrong move and you'll end up dead

The topmost chamber of a great pyramid is dedicated to Re. If anything blocks the sun's rays within daylight hours, the shrine will be destroyed and the moon will explode. The ensuing shower of meteorites will make sure that the world as we know it cannot survive.

PERSONAL ECUIPSE TOPAUM

▼ An epic adventure in a world full of African promise is about to begin . . . ► Watch out, there's a mummy about!



ne way and another, I happen to have rather a lot of Egyptian blood bubbling about inside my veins, so I was really chuffed when I heard Incentive were giving Freescape an oriental theme. I'm even happier now that I've actually seen it. I mean, Driller and Dark Side were pretty fab 'n' triff but Total Eclipse is even better! Not only have you got an incredibly complex 3D environment – this time with steps and galleries which actually allow you to overlook lower levels – but you get a whole bunch of really deep and devious puzzles to solve as well. The graphics are incredibly impressive and the eastern music really contributes to the tense and pressured atmosphere. I suppose you think I'm going to do my usual jig to celebrate. Forget that – I'd rather have another game.



Your energy is running low, adventurer . . .





this depends on whether or not you like Freescape. However, even if you thought Driller and Dark Side were a bit slow, take a look at this, because it really is an example of a game where the initial slowness of playing is compensated for by the atmosphere of getting involved. After half an hour's play, you won't really notice the sluggish 3D and since the action will take you a hell of a long time to complete, that's pretty good! You really feel as if you're in the 30s exploring an ancient Egyptian pyramid — and the sharp time limit only adds to the excitement. If you want to explore a 3D world on your 64 that's better than either of its predecessors, take a look at Total Eclipse.







ve never really gone overboard for Freescape (mainly because it always seemed a bit slow) but once I'd gotten into Total Eclipse, I was far too busy messing about with all the puzzles to worry about the speed of the game. You may only have two hours before the total eclipse but I reckon with such an enormous pyramid to explore, in real time it'll take you months and months. All those rooms at different levels do get a bit confusing, though – so you've really got to make a map. I found the music (a repetitive eastern grating noise) a bit irritating, but the depth of the gameplay definitely makes up for it. If you prefer games with a bit of substance rush out and get this NOW.

Ankhs collected Treasure collected

Current state of eclipse



Step size

Time

Water bottle

Compass

Angle of turn

Heart beat

Yup, that's you. A total eclipse has been forecast and you've got to destroy the shrine at the apex of the pyramid before it occurs. Otherwise – kaput.

And this pyramid is no piece of cake, so don't go thinking it's gonna be easy. To put it bluntly, unless you make a map of its various chambers, galleries and rooms hiding mysterious artefacts, you've had it. Worse still, many of the rooms contain devious and disorientating puzzles (locked doors, self-raising walls, trip wires, pressure pads) — you've only got a pretty limited

supply of water and any really strenuous exercise is likely to tire out your heart. Ouf!

Certain barriers can only be dealt with by shooting (lucky you remembered to bring your revolver) or if you've got an ankh one of a set of mysterious symbols scattered around the area).

The action unfolds in glorious Freescape first person perspective 3D with the usual array of dead helpful controls at your fingertips. You can alter the size of your step, the angle of view, look up, look down, stand, crouch, and even stop to rest.

Height of chamber above sea level

Oh yeah — there is one advantage to being the saviour of the world: you can use part of your precious two hours to collect the treasure that some careless ancient Egyptian has left lying around. If, and when, you ever get out, you won't just have rescued the entire world — you'll be able to buy most of it as well!

PRESENTATION 93%

Comes in a glossy cardboard box with quality A2 colour poster. You can save the game at any time, and there's atmospheric on-screen presentation.

GRAPHICS 85%

Brilliant 3D but if you haven't come across Freescape before, you might find it a bit slowmoving at first.

SOUND 70%

Eastern tune might grate a bit after a while; some paltry spot effects.

HOOKABILITY 80%

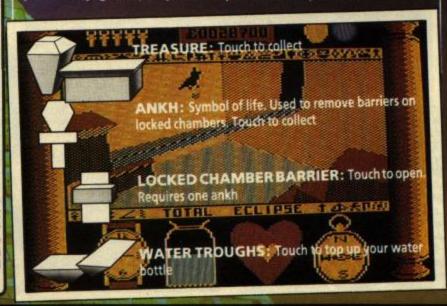
Freescape's a bit hard to get to grips with initially and you'll have to use the keyboard (gasp!).

LASTABILITY 95%

The puzzles have incredible depth so you'll be playing for hours and hours and hours and . . . get the picture?

OVERALL 94%

The most complex and captivating Freescape adventure so far.





US Gold, £9.99 cassette, £14.99 disk

t's a good job that there are a lot of people in the world that live for solo battles against terrifying odds, else where would the computer games industry be? Anyway enough of this chat, on with the review .

Your country is being terrorised by an evil dictator: the dreaded General Swindells (an optician). His troops are spreading across the land from their headquarters, stomping the defending forces into the ground. But they haven't counted on ... SUPER-ACE-BRILL-MEGA-BRAVE-AND-DAR-ING-HELICOPTER-PILOT You take to the skies in your trusty chopper (...no, on second thoughts...), ready to deal a bit



▲ Quick! Blow up those ground-based joysticks before they annihilate you!



I'd never played Thunder Blade when US Gold

I'd never played Thunder Blade when US Gold announced that they'd be converting the game, so I thought I better had. On seeing it I thought 'Oh, this is nice. Those plucky people at US Gold will have a hard task ahead of them in converting it – 3D like this is going to be tough to transfer to the 64'. Now it's finally here, I can see that they really haven't made too bad a job of it. The graphics are still a little jerky but the gameplay has kept the difficulty of the arcade original. The tunes are OK as well, if a little grating. So what can I say? Well . . . it's quite a playable conversion – and much more respectable than certain other big names we've seen this year. Take a look.

of rough justice to the dreaded General.

First you must fly through the city (beginning from a bird's-eye view and switching to 3D) which is

infested with enemy tanks and helicopters, immediately followed by an attack on the invaders' warship. Next comes the desert, with more enemy craft and many rock

STRANGE



When I heard that Chris Butler was undertaking the

When I heard that Chris Butler was undertaking the conversion of Thunder Blade, I thought to myself 'I hope it's better than Space Harrier'. Fortunately it is . . . but not that much. There was many a snigger when the buildings on level one were seen to wobble like jelly as we flew past! The game isn't too bad to play, but it's not really very good. A lot of the time I felt that the way that the enemies attacked you before you had chance to fire was unfair and the drifting missiles don't help. The 3D caverns on level two are quite exciting though, but they're not ten quid's worth of exciting. I can see people getting a bit peeved about this . . .

ESPIONAGE

Grandslam, £9.95 cassette, £14.95 disk

Il you would-be spies out there get your black hat and dark glasses on, because Grandslam have converted the cult board game Espionage to the 64. A game of double-dealing and intrigue; of nefarious doings and back-stabbing; of . . . (we get the picture -

Ed).

The object of the game is to become the Master-Spy by locating and returning to base the all-important micro-film canisters. This sounds easy enough, but you're not the only one trying to be a Master-Spy. There are three

other agents trying to outdo you and nab the canisters before you get a look in. Your task is carried out by a team of 12 agents, including surveillance agents, courier agents and secret agents. Each type can move around the board in a different way, rather like in chess.

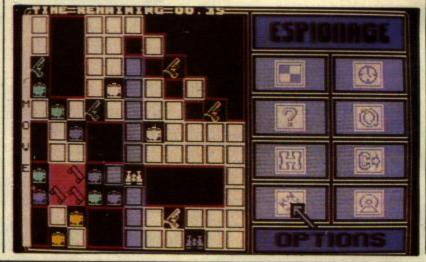
Another objective of the game is to obtain more money than the other spies by terminating agents. Terminating is similar to taking a piece in draughts. If you can move over an opposing agent and there is a free space behind them, then that piece can be 'terminated' and



What with Risk last month and now Espionage, it seems to be fashionable at the moment to have

seems to be fashionable at the moment to have computer versions of board games. Unfortunately, Grandslam's conversion doesn't add anything to the original gameplay. In fact, in some ways it's worse. Only a certain section of the board can be seen at a time, depending on whose turn it is – and the zoom option limits this even further. On the gameplay front, I have to say that it's not much fun sitting around for five minutes while the other faceless computer players ponder their next move. For this reason I can only see the game having any appeal if more than one player takes part. So why play it squinting at a computer monitor when it's simpler on a board where you can see what's going on? Potential spies would be best off saving their money and getting the board game. the board game.

▼ It doesn't look all that fab 'n' triff, does it? See this review for further details!





ISNT

STURIO

I had grave misgivings about the quality of Espionage as soon as I tried to enter the code for the manual protection. The keyboard entry system wasn't exactly user friendly, as three letters came up at once – and deleting them was just as confusing! The

once—and deleting them was just as confusing! The game itself isn't so great either, with more time spent waiting around for the computer players to decide what they are going to do. The symbols on the board are rather small and are sometimes confusing. I often didn't realise that a piece that I could have terminated was in possession of a canister. The sound is pathetic too, consisting of a few in-game bleeps and a dreadful tune. Where's all the extra presentation than computer board game needs? Not in Espionage, that's for sure.

formations to dodge. The third level takes place over a river delta before entering the last stage in the refinery outside the enemy HQ.

You are armed with cannons and missiles (cannons for air targets and missiles for ground targets) and two backup helicopters (I wonder how they ship out the spare helicopters...? never

Can you make it through the enemy defences and save the world (again) or will you be a sensible coward and stay in bed?

PRESENTATION 49%

equate controls, but extras only really consist of a score

GRAPHICS 56%

3D, but some of the scenery

SOUND 68%

ew average tunes and pretty

HOOKABILITY 66%

od fun if you don't mind the

LASTABILITY 52%

Not a lot of variety to induce engthy gaming.

OVERALL 69%

lot bad, and it might work out heaper than playing the arcade



Will somebody please tell me what's going on?

removed from the board.

Play continues until the time limit is reached or all the micro-film canisters have been returned to the bases.

PRESENTATION 46%

A few options and some nice bumf in the packaging, but the in game presentation sucks.

GRAPHICS 38%

Bland character graphics which are often confusing.

SOUND 29%

ne or two spot effects and a dismally bad tune.

HOOKABILITY 42%

Starting off against the computer is instantly very difficult.

LASTABILITY 36%

Continuing to play the computer opponents is very boring.

OVERALL 41%

Only good for two or more players, so buy the boardgame

Firebird, £9.99 cassette, £12.99 disk

fter a hard day at the inflat-4 able toy factory it's time to relax . . . You pull on your Kung Fu pyjamas and get down to the centre of town to beat the living daylights out of two similarly-minded martial artists.

So there you are, in the middle of the street in your jammies, faced with these two mean-looking Orientals - what are you going to do? What you're going to do is show off those 16 fancy Kung Fu moves you've been practising on your granny, beat these guys to muesli and get yourself moving up the Dan league table to the commanding position of tenth Dan.

Your repertoire of martial manoeuvres includes five different punches, three kicks, two leg sweeps and numerous evasive movements (even forward and backward cartwheels - oooh!). When a fighter scores a hit on one of his opponents, he illuminates



▲ Can Cameron hit that Ninja? Shuriken! (Geddit? Oh - please yourself, then)

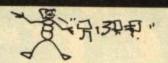


Beat 'em, biff 'em, do a cartwheel into their mush -

Beat 'em, biff 'em, do a cartwheel into their mush—yeah! Erm . . . I've liked this sort of game ever since I clapped eyes on Yie Ar Kung Fu — ooh, ages and ages ago. OK, so this isn't the greatest example of Kung Fu fun, but it is quite enjoyable while it lasts—even if that Isn't all that long. The graphics and sound aren't a patch on IK + and the action isn't all that tough to control but somehow Fist + just grows on you. Still, IK + would probably grow on you more . . . If you just want one really good Kung Fu simulator, this probably won't be the one. On the other hand, if you're a bit of a karate chop freak, at least give this a whirl.

▼ More than a few overtones of IK+ - but it isn't half bad





one of six score lights; two if he scored with a torso or head blow. At the end of each timed round, the player with the least number of lights lit loses and is disqualified from the next round.

Every two rounds there's a bonus stage, in which you have to move an on-screen hand into the optimum position for throwing daggers into ninjas who are rushing across the rooftops to get you. If one lands on the plaza where you're standing it's back to the streets for more beat 'em up larks with your two pugilist pals.



Hang on, haven't we this somewhere before? This is

very much like System 3's International Karate +, except it's not as polished graphically or sonically. The quality of the sprites and backquality of the sprites and backgrounds hovers just above
average, but the use of sound
seems to comprise sampled
parrot squawks from the
fighters and an awful background dirge. The fighting
action is surprisingly easy to
control considering the
number of moves – there's
even a couple of new ones, like
the cartwheels and the back
elbow, which should impress
anyone's tortoise. On the
whole, Fist + is good fun to
play for a while, and the knifeplay for a while, and the knife throwing sequence puts a bit of spice into the game, but it needed to be better presented to make it a serious competitor for IK + - especially at this price.

PRESENTATION 44%

Below average title screen, no real front end, but there are one and two player options.

GRAPHICS 69%

Competent sprites and animation. Backgrounds aren't much to look at, though.

SOUND 51%

Raucous sampled squawks from the fighters coupled with tone-

HOOKABILITY 72%

Playable and even mildly addic tive once you've mastered the 16 moves

LASTABILITY 67%

There is some urge to reach Tenth Dan, but after that there's only an improved score to keep you playing.

OVERALL 68%

A good but expensive beat 'em up, and not as polished as IK +







AFTERBURNER - 'THE ARCADES

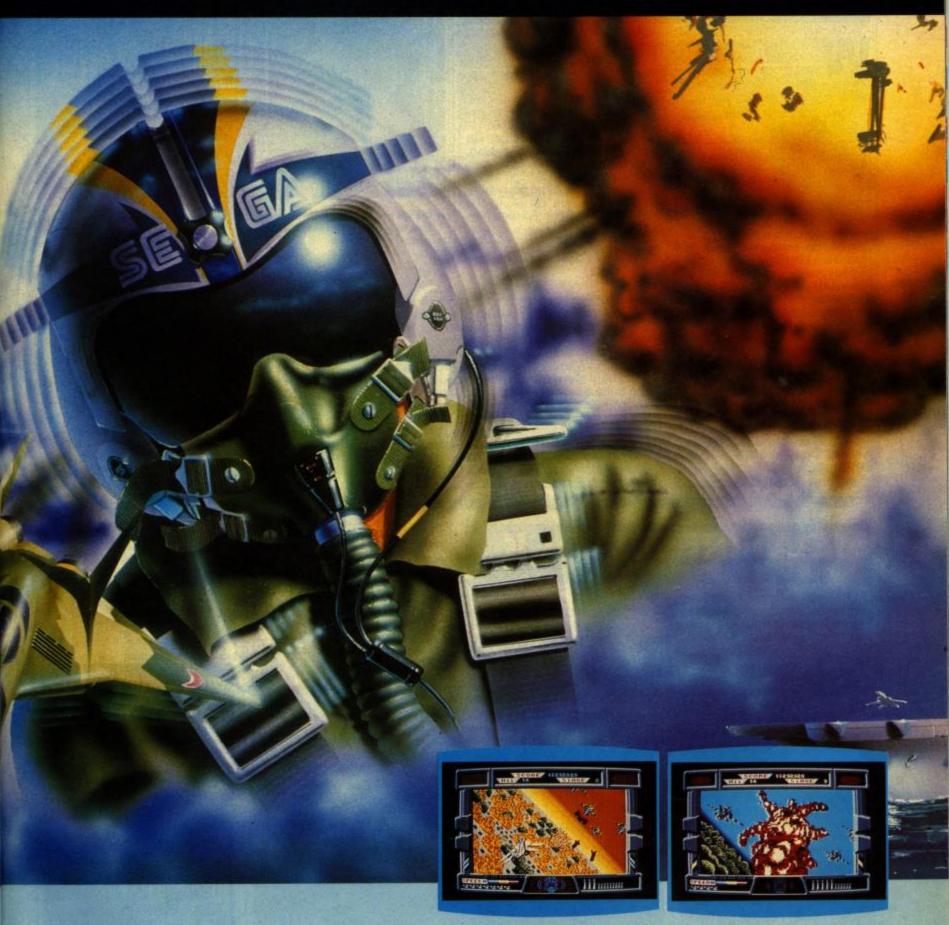
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Mail Order: Activision, Blake House, Manor Farm Estate, Manor Farm Rd., Reading, Berkshire. Consumer Enquiries: 0734 311666

Technical Support: 0703 229694.

Available on C64 cassette (£9.99) and disk (£14.99), Spectrum (£12.99), Amiga (£24.99)

ATTE ROLL ITO



Amiga screen shots shown

ST screen shots shown

SENSATION OF THE YEAR'

Amstrad cassette (£9.99) and disk (£14.99), Atari ST (£24.99), and MSX (£9.99).

AFTERBURNER – You've played the arcade smash – now experience the white-knuckled realism of a supersonic dogfight at home! Using your heat-seeking missiles and laser anti-aircraft fire, can you be top gun against a seething supersonic swarm?

Experience brain-numbing G-forces; bones rattling with the body-jarring pitch and yaw . . . scan with your radar, lock on your target and FIRE!



Melbourne House, £9.99 cassette, £14.99 disk

hat is the world coming to? What kind of life is it when a girl can't walk the without the threat of streets attack? Marian was just about to

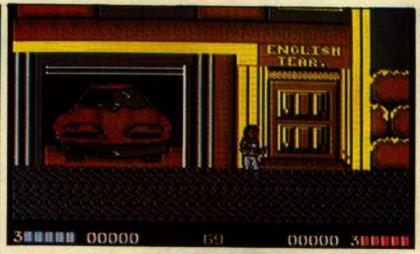


Double Dragon in the arcades is one of my most favourite games, so I was naturally

looking forward to a home conversion. It's a real pity that the 64 conversion is absolutely pathetic. I thought the point of a conversion was to put all the elements of the arcade original into the home version. Unfortunately, the program-mers have left out quite a lot of things, such as the pit on level two where the enemies are supposed to fall, the large enemies that burst through walls and the dynamic knee-in-the-groin and shoulderthrow moves. Also to its detriment are appalling graphics (which glitch) and feeble sound. Oh – and it's a multiload. Aaaaaargh!

set off into town when the leader of the Black Warriors gang took a fancy to her and had her kidnapped. Boo hiss.

Billy Lee, Marian's boyfriend, and his brother saw them and decided to give chase. Unfortu-nately, the Shadow Boss has left hordes of his minions behind. Unless the brothers manage to overcome these baddies using their hands, feet and any other objects they pick up along the way, Marian is doomed. Boo hiss (again).



We bet you all went out and bought this, as well. Wait for the ZZAP! review next time!

Still here, are we? OK, then, get

over to that bit of hostile territory over there and create a bit of heat



Looking at this I have to keep reminding myself that the standard of arcade conversions really is improving. Generally speaking, conversions are getting better - Double Dragon just isn't one of them. It's not even one of those really hard to convert coin-ops

that you'd always find a bit disappointing on the 64. I mean, there are quite a few really fantastic beat 'em ups – Target Renegade and IK+, for example – so you can't blame the shortcomings of the conversion on the machine. Nobody's expecting the 64 version to be exactly like the coin-op (that would be stupid) - just a fair representation. With such primitive graphics, basic sound and a really tedious multiload, Melbourne House definitely haven't managed that.

PRESENTATION 21%

Poor control and slo-o-ow mul-

GRAPHICS 30%
Tiny, poorly coloured sprites that glitch badly.

OUND 32%

Grating tune and a few com-

pletely inappropriate effects.

HOOKABILITY 17%

As soon as it starts, you think 'What the hell is this?'

LASTABILITY 8%

Boring halfway through the first

OVERALL 15%

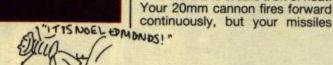
One of the most disappointing arcade conversions ever.

ver fancied mucking about in helicopters just like Noel Edmonds. No? Well, go away then.



No, this doesn't look like it's a cross between Afterburner Thunderblade.

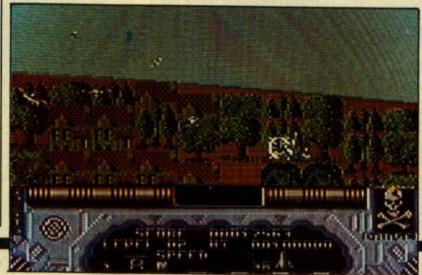
Not a bit. Well, all right, it does and it's not terribly good. The graphics aren't too bad stationary but when they move, they don't create any really convincing 3D effects. When you bank your helicopter, the chunky rows of landscape graphics turn into a flight of steps - and ground objects (like towers) don't lean over to stay at a right angle to the horizon. Ignore the graphics and the suspect collision detection, and you should get a few hours of blasting entertainment 'cos it does have a few neat touches. There's the ejected pilot for one. Can you imagine an ejector seat in a helicopter? BOOM SHKSHKSHKSHK. Urgh. I hate kebabs.



Oo 'eck! This could cause a few problems! This game owes a little to those 3D flying game we all know and ... er ... know. Unfortunately, the 3D effect in Hellfire Attack isn't too realistic, too realistic, especially when the horizon tilts and leaves

ground objects straight. Or maybe that's what it looks like in a helicopter ...? The enemy helicopters and planes don't exactly present a playable challenge as they vary from incredibly easy to impossibly hard with no inbetween stage. This isn't exactly my idea of playability but it could appeal to those who like nothing more than sticking a pound coin in those arcade thingies for a few minutes' flying.

▼ Oh dear, oh dear – this is not very good at all



have to be targeted by manoeuvring your sights. Bang. Enemy missiles aren't as power-

ful but follow you doggedly until their guidance systems get bored or you make good your escape with a quick burst of turbo thrust. No job for a DJ, eh?

PRESENTATION 66%

Nice cartoony title screen and a few neat touches, but nothing to make the game any more iteresting.

GRAPHICS 41%

Individual sprites aren't bad, but the jerky 3D effect doesn't pro-vide much in the way of exhilara-

SOUND 51%

Bland music and jingles, but the sound effects are atmospheric.

HOOKABILITY 50%

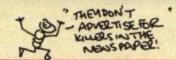
Easy enough to pick up and play out not overly addictive.

LASTABILITY 39%

Ultimately uninteresting gamep ay doesn't hold your attention

VERALL 48%

Don't expect a thrilling 3D arcade experience and you won't be disappointed.



JROMAN

Interplay/Electronic Arts, £14.95 DISK ONLY!

lowly, as you wake up, the world that gradually swirls into focus looks suspiciously like the close up view of a

plate of synth-spaghetti.

Just after wondering what the hell is going on, you begin to remember. You've been in Chiba City for a couple of days now, having pawned your deck to get money to live. The money soon went on liquor and synthetic food in an attempt to shut out the things that brought you to Chiba City in the first place; the disappearance of fellow Cowboys, the weird thing going on in Cyberspace - and just how the hell are you going to stay alive? The secrets to these mysteries can only be solved within Cyberspace itself, but getting in isn't going to be as easy as it seems

The first thing you must do is get your deck back . . .



▲ Cor! Just like that old chestnut, Beam Rider

My expectations of Neuromancer were initially very high, since it dealt with a subject I'm very interested in, but when I first saw the game, I thought that it was a bit like Maniac Mansion rather than a Cyberpunk fantasy. After playing the game for about an hour my thoughts changed a lot. The atmosphere grows

the longer you play the game due to all the subtle Cyberpunk workings of the plot; the Decks, the PAX network system and the background conversations that build a world for you to explore. My only criticism is that each location is held on disk, making moving through Chiba City a slow affair. But 15 quid for a two-disk role playing game isn't bad, and Neuromancer gets my vote of confidence any day!

CHIBA CITY TERMINOLOGY (to help you understand the review better)

Synth-spaghetti: A form of artificial fast food. Chiba City: An area by Tokyo Bay in the Kanto District of south-central Honshu, Japan.

Deck: A personal computer network terminal which allows entry into many systems, including Cyberspace. Cowboys: Generic term for Deck Operators.

Cyberspace: A computer matrix, rather like another dimension, which contains many computer networks.

▼ Our New Romantic prances around chilly Chiba improving his chips. Chips? What are we talking about? Gibber gibber . .



tried to get myself into the right frame of mind for playing mind for by Neuromancer by like the

imagining things like the opening sequences to Blade Runner. I didn't have to bother: Interplay have managed to include a great deal of this kind of atmosphere in the game, setting off modern structures against decayed buildings and adding subtle technological references so cleverly that you soon take them for granted. When sending messages on the PAX, I even started using a chatty tone which was understood! This kind of detail is what makes a role playing game brilliant, and Neuromancer is a very high quality program indeed. It's just a shame that cassette users will miss out.



I like this sort of game and I like Cyberpunk, so naturally I think that

Neuromancer's great! I thought that Blade Runner was dead good and this is as close as a computer game has ever got to capturing the atmosphere of the film, especially when you think of CRL's disappointing license. Playing the game is rather like actually being a character in one of William Gibson's books - that must be a good thing, since it's based on one! The balance between the run-down and the futuristic is just right and gives the realms of Chiba City the kind of depth only usually found in serious adventure games. Future freaks with disk drives should invest in a copy as soon as possible.

PRESENTATION 88%

Brilliant in-game presentation with many subtle points, but the frequent disk access slows things down at times.

GRAPHICS 90%

Wonderfully atmospheric, creating a believably futuristic world to explore.

SOUND 72%

Rather scratchily sampled title music and sparse in-game music and effects.

HOOKABILITY 82%

Since it's a role playing game it takes a while to get into.

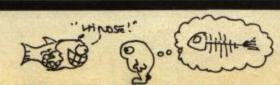
LASTABILITY 91%

Avid RPG and Cyberpunk fans will be hooked for a long time.

OVERALL 84%

Interplay come up with the goods on an unusual and interesting license and turn it into a very satisfying RPG.







RN OF THE JEDI

Domark, £9.95 cassette, £12.95 disk

here can't be many people reading this who haven't seen the film Return of the Jedi, so we won't go over the whole story of the film now. Suffice to say, the rebels have landed on the Empire-occupied moon of Endor

In the first section, you're Princess Leia racing through the forest on her speeder bike pursued by Imperial soldiers. Ewoks hidden in

always look forward to the 64 versions of the Star Wars arcade games, but I'm always disappointed. Star Wars was too slow, as was The Empire Strikes Back. Now we come to Return of the Jedi and we

have yet another disappointing release. The game captures little of the atmosphere of the coin op original: rubbish sound, bland graphics and unappealing gameplay. When are Domark going to get some brilliant programmers in to do their conversions? This is just another average blast.

the trees trap passing riders; you | dismount enemies by shooting them, knocking them into obsta-

cles or into an Ewok trap.

Next comes the assault on the Imperial bunker - this time you're

Chewbacca controlling an Imperial scout walker. Another level, which has you in charge of the Millenium Falcon on its approach to the Death Star, appears intermittently.

Reached the bunker? Lando now flies the Falcon into the heart of the Death Star and destroys the energy converter which starts a chain reaction, destroying the Death Star and so winning the battle. Hurrah!

PRESENTATION 51% Disjointed level switching, dull attract mode and an overall shabby appearance.

GRAPHICS 60%

Range from quite nicely defined to gaudy and blocky in both sprites and backgrounds.

SOUND 43%

Very weak effects and dull renditions of the film tunes

HOOKABILITY 67%

Many will be attracted by the

LASTABILITY 49%

. but once played a few times, the appeal will wear off quickly.

OVERALL 61%

Certainly not the game it could have been.



Domark are renowned for their conversions of the Star Wars series of arcade

games - unfortunately, this one's pretty mediocre. The graphics are poor, but the most irritating element is the loose control method, which makes you zoom off in totally unexpected directions - not a factor guaranteed to keep me clinging on to my joystick. I'd only recommend this to die-hard fans or those who've got the other games and want to complete the set.



▲ Da da da da da-da da da-da . . . er . . . clunk!

GUERILLA WAR

Imagine, £9.95 cassette, £14.95 disk

n island is under the tyrannical rule of an evil oppressor. A severe form of martial law has been enforced, with soldiers and booby traps all over the place. Fortunately, help is at

Two mysterious figures walk

onto a remote beach from their PACT After the excel-

lent conversion of Operation Wolf, I expected to see some fairly good

work from Ocean's sub-label. Instead, what we have in Guerilla War is an absolutely pathetic attempt at recreating the arcade game. The sprites are a mess, hardly looking human shaped, never mind detailed! The backgrounds are just as bad, giving no impres-sion of depth at all. In fact everything about this game is poor; even the packaging is just a photograph of the arcade cabinet (wot a copout!). I recommend that you give Guerilla War the attention it deserves: that is, none at all!

attack craft. They are set to storm past the dictator's troops and put an end to his rule of terror so that the people of the island can live in freedom.

Starting off with a powerful gun and a supply of grenades you must dispose of the enemy troops, picking up superior weapons as you go, until you reach the dictator himself and put an end to his vil-



Well, if your Valentine's contemplating buying you a computer game next month with loads of big slob-bery kisses all over it, make sure the box that plops through your letterbox with a big red ribbon round it isn't Guerilla War. Unless you like messing about

with badly drawn, blotchy graphics and virtually non-existent gameplay that is. I'm as fond of your average mindless shoot 'em up as the next okapi, but I really draw the line at a product as bitty and boring as this. If you do somehow manage to get hold of a cony, forget all about playing it and try and use it in a cheese and pickle sandwich astead.

Oh dear - not the best Ikari Warriors variant about, is it?



PRESENTATION 49%

Boring intro and a choice of control methods - all of them poor.

GRAPHICS 23%

Messy blobs of colour running over 'flat' scenery.

SOUND 31%

Scratchy music and dire effects grate horribly on the ears.

HOOKABILITY 20%

As soon as the game appears you know it's going to be bad.

LASTABILITY 12%

Yup, bad it sure is!

OVERALL 19%

The worst full-price Commando variant available to date.



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MICROPROSE SOCCER

Microprose/Sensible Software, £14.95 cass, £19.95 disk

If you're anything like me, you'll probably be dead keen on the idea of football but not overly desperate to get yourself out on to a freezing cold field in a pair of drafty shorts in the middle of winter. Brrr! With Microprose Soccer you even get to play in an absolutely brilliantly simulated thunderstorm and your feet don't ever get wet! Not only that, with so many options and possible modes of play, you'll probably burn those horrible shorts and never opt for footy on one of those chilly pitches ever again (well not in January, anyway). It's great having two different games (the six-a-side's my favourite) but what I like best about Microsoccer is that's it's not too serious. Where else would you find a something as silly as a banana shot and a soundtrack that wails

•A not very Sensible footy sim

re we go, 'ere we go, 'ere we go – only another year before the world cup. Will Brian Clough ever get to be the manager of England? Does Kenny Sansom tie up his left or his right boot first? Will Gary Lineker opt for a red, white and blue all-over spiral perm. Who knows the answer to these and other crucial footballing questions? Not us. More than our job's worth, that – we're just supposed to describe the game.

Well, that's wrong for a start because there are two games: traditional Association football and American Rules Six-a-Side.

good-by-eee totally out of time?

Both can be played in a number of different ways: two-player friendly (one-off footballing frenzy with a mate), soccer/indoor league (up to 16 players in competition against each other), World Cup/All Star Tournament and Microprose International Challenge (designed for solo play against computer-controlled teams).

In addition to basic tackling,

In addition to basic tackling, running and dribbling, there's yer whole range of possible moves. You can volley the ball forward, flip it backwards overhead, chip it, and perform banana shots (curl it left or right). There's full goalie

control and the program allows for corners, throw-ins and goal-kicks.

Control options allow you to choose match-length, banana power, team colours and auto or manual player control. Phew!

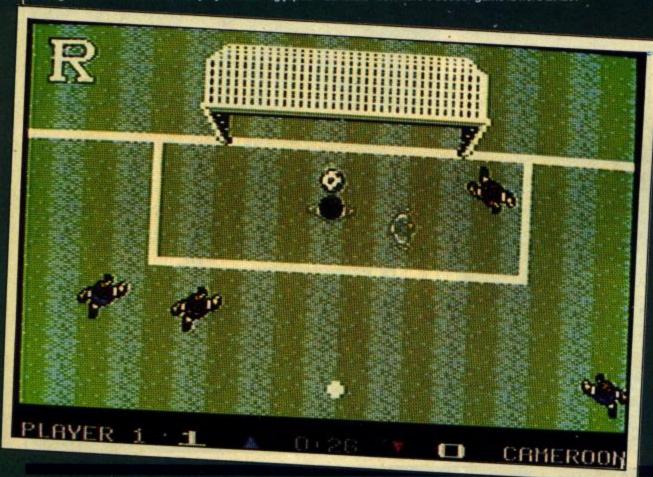
If the weather option is switched on, chances are that your outdoor match could be interrupted by thunder, lightning and rain, plipplopping on the surface of the pitch. Select replay if you want to see a slow-motion tele-style replay of each of your goals as they occur.

thought Microprose were going to market this as a fullscale soccer sim with a six-a sider thrown in free. Even with the extra game it still seems a bit expensive to me. Oh well . . . Apart from that, this has got to be one of the best soccer sims I've ever seen. Little touches like the wacky soundtrack (you've just got to hear it, believe me), rain on the pitch and the banana shot really make it something special. I'm still convinced that Emlyn Hughes International Soccer is the best footy sim so far, partly because the menu system in Microsoccer is sometimes slightly awkward to control (make a mistake and you end up switching sides in the middle of a match). If you've got loadsamoney, get them both. If not, stick with Emlyn, and make sure you get Microsoccer later on. It's got something which many games lack - a brilliant sense of humour.





▼ Bags of humour and loads of jolly footballing japes – Sensible Software's soccer game is here at last



PRESENTATION 90%

More menus than you can eat bananas (and there's even one of those). Up to 16 player participation and options to save and load in games.

GRAPHICS 88%

Unusually well-defined overhead graphics – the best we've seen in a footy sim.

SOUND 75%

Pretty basic sound effects but very silly in-game musical accompaniment. Jolly title tune.

HOOKABILITY 78%

All the options take a bit of time to work out.

LASTABILITY 90%

So many different ways to play football you should keep going for a very long time.

OVERALL 90%

The best overhead footy sim we've seen so far. Buy this and Emlyn Hughes and you've got the two best footy games on the 64.



Domark, £9.95 cassette, £12.95 disk

he world has ignored the troubles of the small Carribean island communities for too long. Now there's a crisis. Dr Kananga, the Prime Minister of the island of San Monique, has long kept his rule by the use of voodoo and tyranny. Now he's spreading his nefarious deeds by shipping heroin to the United States. He plans to flood the market and undercut the American dealers to

provide military funding for San Monique which, incidentally, is allied to the Eastern Bloc.

You take the part of 007 James Bond (no more introductions necessary, I presume) in an attempt to infiltrate Dr Kananga's (or 'Mr. Big' as he is known) headquarters and put a stop to his plans.

Q has furnished you with a uper-speedboat, fitted with super-speedboat,

▲ Wasn't this going to be called Aquabl—?: oh well, it's not now. Live

and Let Die's the name, and a fair old fish it is, too

canons and a rocket launcher, with which to battle through Kananga's defences. Obviously a boat like this costs money, so they don't let you go haring off into battle straight away, but give you a

SCORE 005080

chance to perfect your skills in a series of training missions.

HI 020000

The first practice tests your aiming proficiency with a series of floating targets: red, to be shot by cannons, and black, only to be



There seems to be some sort of creative block which prevents Domark from coming up with anything exciting in their James Bond games, since Live and Let Die is the latest in a line of dull games with tenuous 007 connections. The 3D effect is fair enough, nipping along at a brisk enough pace to be effective, but the game itself hardly evokes any atmosphere due to the sluggish control method and tedious delays. Actually, I think that using this as a James Bond license is a bit of a con, as the boat scene of Live and Let Die is only a small section of the film. I must say lexpected more than an average 3D game from the programmers of Buggy Boy. of Buggy Boy.



Hmm – an interesting little number this. Not good enough to have you leaping out of your seat, but not really bad enough at all to put you off. Is it like Buggy Boy? Well, yeah, but it's not quite as good. The water's not only replaced the track – it seems to have drowned all the flags and obstacles as well. What you're left with is a watered down version (geddit?) of my favourite race game ever and that just isn't enough to really appeal. Right. Those are the bad bits, now for the good: the 3D is pretty nifty and there's enough gameplay to keep you at it for quite some time. It may not be as good as the game it resembles so much, but Live And Let Die is still good fun. It's just not the same without Sean Connery, though – sniff.

Ocean, £9.95 cassette, £14.95 disk

anyone out there remember the end of the film Rambo? You know, the bit where he goes on about wishing that his country would love him an' all that an' everyfin'. Well, it appears that his country does think something of him, as he's been asked to go on another mis-

sion where 'only the best will do'.
This time it's Afghanistan, where Colonel Trautman has been cap-tured by the naughty un-American, pinko, commie Ruskies, and only John 'Don't push me!' Rambo can save him.

You take the role of the hardman himself as he enters the fort in Afghanistan. You must search for Colonel Trautman and make good your escape.

You start off armed with only knives – but other weapons, including explosive arrows, a pistol and a machine gun, can be found around the fort to help you. There are a couple of disadvantages though, as the ammunition is limited and the noisier weapons attract enemy attention. Also to be found are objects such as mine detectors, infra-red goggles and medi-kits which may be of some

Once you have rescued the Colonel, you let him loose to rejoin the Afghan horsemen, while you

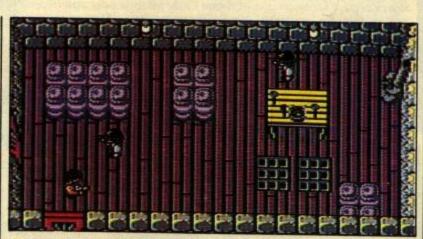
escape North. On your route you will find critically placed bombs which must be primed in order to destroy the fort. Once they have all been set, you must find a helicopter and make your escape.

Unfortunately, the helicopter is unable to take you across the bor-



Although on first sight there

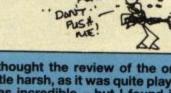
Although on first sight there appears to quite a lot of content in the game, Rambo III proves to be a rather tedious experience. The graphics aren't up to much – a few sprites and bland, repetitive scenery. The music can't hold a candle to Ocean's previous Rambo license (still some of the best music on the 64) and the effects are extremely weedy. The later sections, with their total style change, are a little more interesting due to the basic blasting action, but having struggled through the boring earlier stages I expected a lot more. I quite enjoyed the first Rambo game, but I can't say I feel the same about the follow-up.



Purply brown floorboards? Would a really hard macho hero stereotype walk over those?

der, so you must fight the rest of the way in a stolen Russian tank, blasting enemy troops aside as you go. Only one rule here: kill or be killed.

And that's it. Phew!



I thought the review of the original Rambo was a little harsh, as it was quite playable – and the music was incredible – but I found it very difficult to be enthusiastic about Rambo III. The graphics are of a similar standard to the previous license, but the sound is nowhere near as good, despite the programmer trying to emulate the feel of Martin Galway's masterpiece. Playabilitywise the game is somewhat weak; the first level is very large and the graphics are pretty samey throughout – dullsville. After battling through to the later levels, I thought 'well, yeah . . . but was it worth it?' In my opinion it wasn't really enough, but if you are a great Rambo fan, I suppose the blasting will remind you of the films and appeal to you. Unfortunately it just left me cold.



taken out by missiles. The next puts you up against simulated boat and aircraft targets, enabling you to get used to the type of action you may be encountering.

Prove your ability and you might be allowed on to New Orleans where you must enter the final battle with Mr Big's minions. Oooh!

PRESENTATION 71%

Nifty race selection system plus four different missions. Slightly dodgy controls though.

GRAPHICS 63%

Fast enough 3D, but the sprites are rather blocky and indistinct.

SOUND 49%

Minimal spot effects and a disappointing set of musical anomalies

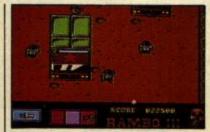
HOOKABILITY 76%

Interesting enough for the first

LASTABILITY 67%

It's appeal is rather short lived.

OVERALL 70%
A playable, but not outstanding, 3D race and shoot em up which doesn't have all that much to do with James Bond.



▲ 'Don't push me! Don't push me!"

PRESENTATION 61%

Adequate menu systems but ninimal options.

GRAPHICS 56%

lardly any different sprites and ittle diversity in the backgrounds nake the first levels dull. They do mprove slightly, though.

SOUND 52%

Somewhat scratchy tunes backed up with weak, sparse

HOOKABILITY 48%

The first level is very boring and will put many off.

LASTABILITY 50%

Mappers and Rambo fans will probably stick it out.

OVERALL 47%

A shallow shoot 'em down cum maze game that relies too heavon its nametag.

Accolade/Electronic Arts, £9.95 cassette, £14.95 disk

Sorry. Maff was just singing Werewolves of London like Tom Cruise in The Color of Money. Not that he's anything like Tom Cruise, it's just that he's trying to get in the right frame of mind to play Rack 'Em. We just wish that he'd sit down and stop waving his arms in the air.

The game starts as you enter the pool hall, cue in hand (oo-er, etc) ready for a frame or two. The proprietor asks you what you would like to play (straight pool, eight or nine

ball pool or snooker) and chalks your names up on the scoreboard.

If you're playing pool and you've decided who goes first (you can even 'string' for the break), the current player calls his shot (ie, names a ball and nominates a pocket). The shot is aimed by selecting a ball to be struck and setting the impact point. Next you set it by adjusting the spin (or English as they say in America) with a crosshair and controlling the strength by an adjustable power level. The accuracy of a shot depends on

how close the moving cue is to the cue ball when you press the fire button. Complex, huh?

A number of trick shots can be performed. At first they're selected and performed by the computer when you feel up to it, you can try them for yourself. You can even set up a custom game with rules

specially tailored to your needs. What else is needed to get the atmosphere of the pool hall? Oh yes ... altogether everyone: Aaaaaaooooooo - werewolves of London!!



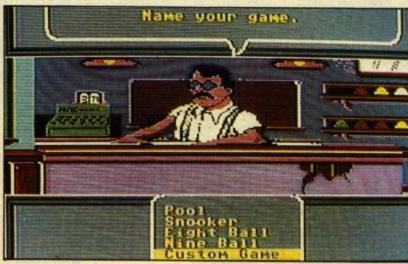
I like playing pool

M.E

I like playing pool and snooker every now and then, but it costs a lot to keep feeding twenty or thirty pence into the tables. That's why I always pay attention when a computer pool simulation appears. Rack 'Em is certainly one of the most comprehensive sims around, with a wide choice of games, rules and shots. The balls roll rather convincingly around the table when hit, giving a good impression of momentum and movement. All the fiddling round with options, menus and selectors makes the going a little tedious however, and limits the playability. It's a shame really, since there is such a lot included in the package that I feel like I should enjoy it, but it just takes so long to play that I got bored. It's still about the best package of this type, though. though.



Probably the best snooker simulation around at the moment, and more balls than the Crucible



▲ Looks nothing like Steve Davis, does he?

9

I quite liked the film The Color of Money and the idea of playing pool, but I was never very good at it – I always think I'm about to rip the baize into shreds. Good job you can't rip the cloth on a computer billiards simulation! Accolade's product has included a lot of the rules and technicalities of pool and snooker and included them in a fairly good computer game. There are a few quirks however, such as the awkward cueing system, the strange bounce shots and lengthy shot selection. The actual action taking place on the table isn't too bad though – it's just the in-game presentation that lets it down.

PRESENTATION 78%

Comprehensive rules and choice of games, but the cueing system can get rather frustrating.

GRAPHICS 79%

Occasionally weak colouring, but effective character definition and ball movement.

SOUND 59%

A couple of dodgy tunes and the odd 'click' of the balls as they hit each other.

HOOKABILITY 61%

A little awkward to get into due to the complexities involved.

LASTABILITY 75%

If you do overcome the initial problems, there's a lot to keep you occupied.

OVERALL 74%

The best billiards sim so far - but it does have its share of niggling

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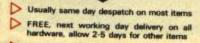
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Just when you thought that you'd escaped from all things Christmassy, it's time to ZZAPBACK to the 1986 ZZAP!
Christmas special. A disappointing month for review software which meant that only Electronic Arts' role plays ist when you mought that you'd escaped from all things Christmassy, it's time to ZZAPBACK to the 1986 ZZAP Christmas special, A disappointing month for review software which meant that only Electronic Arts' role play-ng game Bard's Tale received a Sizzler. Still, Maff and Gordon look back at three highly-rated games . . . (cue wibbly flashback effect – woooeeeeoooool)



GAMES ZZAPBACKED SUPER HUEY II FLASH GORDON WARRIOR II

SUPER HUEY II

Cosmi/US Gold

Following up the UH1X simulator came Super Huey II, with the simulation of a UH2X helicopter (what a surprise!). The complex atmosphere (there are over 50 dials and gauges, you know) wowed the team, just missing the Sizzler rat-ing by 1%. Even Richard Eddy, who confessed to not liking flight sims admitted that it had a sims, admitted that it had 'a great deal going for it', with Gaz Penn saying that it was 'Definitely worth a look'.

Like Richard Eddy, I can't confess to being into flight simulations, but

there's something about helicopters that I find interesting. Maybe that's why I liked Super Huey I and II. The missions give you some-thing to aim for rather than flying aimlessly in circles – another point in its favour. In fact I'd say that it's still one of the best flight sims on the 64. ME

Like Richard Eddy and Maff, I'm not that keen on flight simulations, though I played this one quite a bit. Heaven knows why because it's packed with graphics glitches, the

instructions are very vague and some of the missions are either impossible or pointless. There were some great ideas in there but the programming left a lot to be desired.

GH

(Maff) I think the ratings were just about right. Maybe the graphics and sound ratings should go down just a couple of percent, but that's all. It's still a good game.

(Gordon) Everything apart from sound down by about 15-20%. It's worth checking out if you see it at a reduced price, but otherwise I'd forget Super Huey 2.

FLASH GORDON M.A.D

A strange release in that it's a film license on budget (only £2.99, folks) and managed to score 89%. The game consisted of three separate sections, each involving totally different gameplay. Jaz thought that it was 'really neat',
Paul thought that it was 'worth
three quid of anyone's money' and
Richard suggested that you buy it because 'you're bound to find some of it appealing - even if it is only the music

To be honest I didn't think that Flash Gordon was as good a game as the ZZAP! team made out. OK, it was three quid, but three quid for some nice music and about an hour of playability doesn't quite

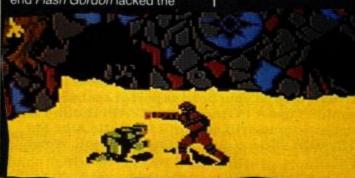
hack it for me. Sorry. ME

Three different gamelets for three quid was a pretty good deal, espe-cially considering the nice graphics and sounds, but in the end Flash Gordon lacked the

addictive element which would keep you at the joystick for hours on end. GH

(Maff) Everything down by about 10-15%, except music which should go down to about 90%. It's cheap but not brilliant.

(Gordon) Sounds about right to



WARRIOR II Nexus

Released on the young Beyond spin-off label (complete with raft-like case), the follow up to Psi Warrior was bound to do well due to the cult status achieved by the first game. Jaz admitted that it was similar to its predecessor and urged that you should 'definitely check this one out' whereas
Gazza said that it was 'a good
game but a poor sequel'. Paul,
always the verbose one, stated
'it's ace'. Strong words indeed!

This is going to make me seem like a right misery but I thought that this was rubbish! The sound was OK, but the graphics were disgusting – I mean, purple and green? Yuk! I think the marks were just because it was the *Psi Warrior* follow-up.

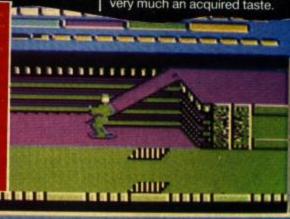
Hmmm. This was a bit of a disap-pointment because it was so much like Psi Warrior – hardly an improvement at all. It did look pretty awful but underneath there was an unusual and mildly interesting game if you could get

into it.



(Maff) Everything down by about 30%. I just don't think it's a good game at all. Vastly overrated.

(Gordon) Yep, everything down, but not by quite as much as that, Maff. Warrior 2 is a competent game, its only sin being that it's very much an acquired taste.



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- The company's main earner is the Chatterbox chatline. It uses teleconferencing equipment and allows up to 10 people (over 18s only) to speak to each other at any one time. All calls are monitored, and heavy breathers, abusive or irritating callers are immediately cut off. You might remember that there was a bit of a hoohah about the dangers of chatlines (you know, astronomical phone bills, indecent calls and all that) earlier this year. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission is currently investigating the issue but as all Chatterbox lines are monitored, the company is confident that the outcome won't be too bad.
- The other branch of the business covers recorded messages. People like ZZAP! and the Football League record messages which are played back using a Marconi Incol computer, when somebody rings the appropriate number. It's a cheap and easy way of getting concentrated info to a large number of people.
- Plans to develop an interactive phone service are currently in the pipeline. Using the digit keys or your voice to give orders, you'd be able to take part in a computerised fantasy science fiction game over the telephone. Interesting, huh?



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Any info that we didn't have time to cram into the mag, or we just can't wait for the next month to tell, is only a phone call away. Woooh!



ZZAP! Hotlines come straight into your living room, bedroom, bathroom (bathroom?) or kitchen courtesy of a very nice bunch of people at Chatterbox Ltd. Da daa!

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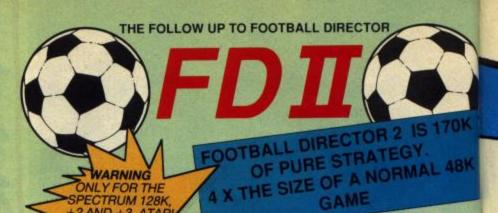
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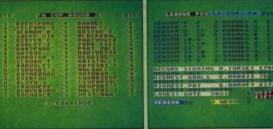
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AM ZONE

Baudville, Amiga £24.99



ou always did look like a bit of a berk (you're not even green for a start) so when some suspiciously greasy, namby

pamby roadsweeper passing for a doctor tells you that all your problems will be solved if you dream them away, you're stupid enough to believe him. Ha! What a prawn!

OK, so you're thick but you've got yourself into this dream zone so how are you going to get yourself out? And no waking up either because a big bad beast (bit like a troll, really) is gonna keep on messing you around until you make it to paradise. Serves you

right!
So where are you exactly, smart ass? Er . . . in the middle of a pretty badly illustrated maze of city locations, maze of city locations, emperor's palaces, sleazy bars and stinking alleyways, actually. This is a dream, remember, so none of the people who live here are well . . . normal. There's an office-block full of bureaucratic pigs, a bar-full of girls with spray-on jeans and a whole bunch of crooks, forgers, loan sharks, groupies



▲ If I had dreams like this, I'd vomit in my sleep

and girlies. Your average teenager's subconscious really. Your average teenage troll's dismemberment party is a whole lot more fun.

Oh yeah, the puzzles. If you've solved every Infocom adventure going and can't

wait to get your hand on the next Magnetic Scrolls, forget Dream Zone and go and do something a lot less boring instead. OK, so this is a dream and the obvious solutions to puzzles don't always work, but there isn't a lizard's earlobe of



ADVENTURE

an excuse for using up memory space with incredibly repetitive, pointless and totally uninteresting puzzles. In fact, the first half hour of the game involves walking round a network of different passages collecting forms - big deal. Some attempt has been made to exploit the dream idea your toy water pistol actually kills (oo-er, pass me another gnome-chip) - but it's about as much fun as watching your toenails grow.

You take charge of this rollicking riot of roistering action using a combination of icon and traditional type-in controls. OK, so the puzzles aren't too hot, but for £24.99 the parser must be great. No way, José – just average really. Generally, there's more than one alternative to a response but every now and then (usually when it's about as obvious as a worm at the bottom of a glass of snot) you have to get it right or else. Not my idea of fun.

If I had dreams as peculiar as this, I'd drink a bucket of fermented slime and bash



myself over the head to sleep it off. Unless you're really into paying £25 to bore yourself stiff (in which case cover yourself with tabasco sauce first, it's tastier that way), I'd advise you to do something a

lot more interesting – like eating your toenails – instead. With so many good adventure releases around at the moment, something as mediocre and uninteresting as this, just isn't worth the time of day.

ATMOSPHERE	52%
PUZZLE FACTOR	49%
INTERACTION	50%
LASTABILITY	40%
OVERALL	39%

GRID'S BAC

Level 9, C64 £14.95 cassette (text-only) and disk (graphics)



've said it before and I'll say it again gnomes taste extremely good in a steaming, slime-topped pie. Schlurp!

Miss Bottomlow would make a particularly welcome addition to my favourite savoury — I like it extra-specially fat and

Anyway, Amiga—owning Chuck Vomit fans (no requests for autographs please—I'm far too busy) will know all about that version of Ingrid's back er... side (snigger, snigger) but I reckon all those mega-important 64 owners out there deserve a review of

If you've played Gnome
Ranger, you'll know how
Ingrid got back from the
wilderness they'd arranged to
send her to by means of a send her to by means of a cleverly sabotaged transportation scroll. Her family and the rest of Little Moaning had just begun to breathe a sigh of relief (no more Mistress Bossyboots telling them when to fart and pick their noses) when everybody's favourite Bottomlow returned. Aargh! Worse still, a certain Jasper Quickbuck made his appearance at exactly the same

appearance at exactly the same time and he doesn't just want to reorganise Little Moaning – he wants to pull it down. Ingrid sweeps into action straight away – a three part mega-epic details her attempts to save the Gnome Counties. Da daaaa!

Episode One is a bit of a Level 9 tickler designed to give you a gentle introduction to the game instead of a belt in the stomach (which is what I would do). Bottomlow, accompanied by her ever-faithful hound, Flopsy, has to collect as many signatures as possible to fill a petition—easier said than done because the inhabitants of Little Moaning don't like her all that much (and not

surprising, if you ask me).
Jasper Quickbuck, of course, fails to take the blindest bit of notice, so Episode Two has Ingrid trying to stop his steam-roller before he flattens Little Moan Farm, I can't emphasise strongly enough how much I disapprove of Ingrid's behaviour towards trolls here, but rest assured, Miss

Bottomlow, if I have anything to do with it, you'll get exactly what you deserve.

By the time she's reached Part Three, Ingrid's had to become a proficient holedigger, diplomat, turnip reorganiser, and order. reorganiser, and order-abouter (well, she's always been good at that). Infiltrating Quickbuck's mansion should be a piece of cake!

Puzzles depend largely on interaction, but unlike Gnome Ranger, where you could get stuck for hours wandering

▼ A rowdy bunch of locals - just my scene



about with nothing to do, they're extremely well-structured and the locations are full of hints. The design of the game as a whole is extremely tight (more than you can say about some of Level 9's previous efforts) and, even better than that, unusually original. Not only that, constantly ongoing background activities (you know, ordinary little gnomes getting on with their ordinary gnome sort of lives - selling garden-people, throwing darts, fishing and all that) make the interaction even more amusing.

more amusing.
The graphics (only the disk version has them) are among the best I've ever seen on the Commodore – brilliant pictures of Little Moaning, windmills, Quickbuck's mansion, which are definitely worth seeing. In both cassette and disk versions each part (they can be played in any order) loads singly so there's no messing about with multiloads or mind-numbing disk access and response time disk access and response time

is pretty quick.

The parser, as per usual, has more mod-cons and abbreviations than I can eat billygoats in one go (a lot) and generally reflects the sort of sophistication we've come to expect from top class adventure houses nowadays. I've noticed though that if you don't start typing immediately after the prompt arrow (ie. on the next line because you've pressed shift twice) it doesn't always recognise speech. Bit messy that. Still, trolls like a good stinking, intestinal mess especially on Fridays.

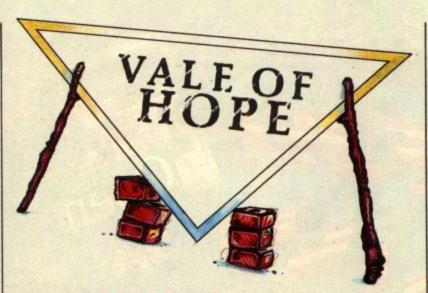
Every now and again you can feel a bit let-down because the 64 version of a mega-hyped adventure turns out to be a graphically inferior long-winded bore. Well, don't get your leather knickers in a twist because *Ingrid's Back* definitely isn't one of those. In fact, I'll throw caution to the winds (my own) and say that it's the most creative and compelling of the recent crop of Level 9 adventures yet.

The interactive element is really starting to come together, the game design is excellent and there's enough humour (anti-troll excepted) to keep the most sour-faced slime-bag party pooper guffawing for . . . er . . . well . . . for a bit (and I mean a big bit). If you've got a disk drive, the brilliant graphics come as an extra bonus – if you haven't, the gameplay is worth

it anyway. Level 9 have such a good reputation that any new release, hot or not, is bound to do pretty well. This one actually deserves to. Pity it's about gnomes, though . . .

it. emptied the ash trays around the

ATMOSPHERE 94% 85% **PUZZLE FACTOR** 94% INTERACTION LASTABILITY 88% **OVERALL** 91%



LORD OF THE RINGS MELBOURNE HOUSE

SOLID SOLUTIONS

OK, weedy wormlets and pathetic gristlegripers, if you're still playing the slowest adventure game in the universe, here is the next exciting, wacky and incredibly fascinating instalment in THE SOLUTION.

Hur hur...

OK, you're in Elrond's courtyard. If you wait (you tend to do a lot of that in this game), you'll get off your horse automatically. Go north into the hallway and wait. When the ell messenger appears the door will open: go west into the great hall where a whole bunch of people should be waiting for you. Be polite and listen to what they say and then keep going east until you reach the hall of fire. There's a meal here so pick it up and wait. After a while, Bilbo will ask you to follow him to his room. Once there, he'll ask you to give him the ring – DON'T. Just keep inputting SAY TO BILBO 'NO'. Eventually he'll get the message and give you a mithril shirt and a sword.

Return to the courtyard (make sure your friends are following you) and wait there until Elrond has loaded the pony with more supplies. Go west to the valley and then south to the ruins. Move SW through the hills and then SE to the foot of the cruel mountain where the path forks. Wait for Gimli to tell you which route to take and do what he

At the base of the low round hill Strider suggests that you go east. Do what he says and make sure that everybody else does as well. Move SE into the valley at the western edge of the lake and take the bundles of food off the pony, then following Gimli's advice, go east twice to reach Moria Door. The password was etched on the door when you first entered the location so

EXAMINE DOOR and SAY TO DOOR 'FRIEND'. When the DOOR 'FRIEND'. When the monster goes for you, attack its tentacle. As long as you've remembered to bring the sword and the shirt and have eaten enough food, you should be strong enough to win the fight

and go east through the gate. The pony bolts away at this stage so if you haven't remembered to remove the food parcels, you're in trouble.

And that's it for this month. Another eyebrow-singeing episode awaits next ish.



More hints and tips for the sort of wimps who haven't got the patience to work something out themselves. What a bunch of weeds. Oh yeah - and this month's £30 software to Paul voucher goes Bournat for the tempting titbits of gristly, greasy, gormlessly gorgeous tips below. Just don't send your adventure tips to PG next time or I'll beat him up. OK?

THE BARD'S TALE II: If you have completed The Bard's Tale and still have the character disk, go to Garth's Place, put the character disk into the drive and press BUY. If you have the money, you can buy a magical item from the realm of The Bard's Tale II including the completed Destiny segments!

BEYOND ZORK (Amiga): A
teleport scroll can help you escape from the cellar if you are stuck. If you brush away the minx's tracks, the hunter can't find it. Kiss the unicorn's horn for luck. To free the unicorn, give it the chest that says DO NOT OPEN but remove everything first. Squeeze the moss for an increase in dexterity. Levitate the baby hungus out of the mud and your

compassion goes up.

ULTIMA III: To reach Ambrosia, go into the whirlpool to find Dawn and use a gem when the moons are at 0,0 (the dot on the map will disappear at any other moon phase). Beware of the floor tiles in the last room of Exodus' castle as they attack you. When you pass the Silver Serpent, use ships to create a bridge from the castle to the land on the island, then return with a horse.

ULTIMA IV: To find the wheel, ask the wounded sailor in the Serpent's castle about HMS Cape. Talk to Antos in the 3 castles about the bell, book and the candles. Walls that have a white dash through the middle can be passed through. To get rid of the Skull Of Montrain, use it at the entrance to the abyss but nowhere else or you'll lose any partial Avatarhood that you have gained (ask SPLOT in Maginica about the stone).



OK guys, just behave yourselves if you get in touch with any of these incredibly nice and friendly people because that's exactly what they are – incredibly nice, friendly and cuddly people and not a troll among them. Yuk!

Heroes of Karn, Bored of the Rings, Gremlins, Voodoo Castle, Zim Zala Bim, Mugsy's Revenge, Tropical Adventure, Dracula, Holy Grail, The Pawn, Return to Oz, Masters of the Universe, Robin of Sherwood, Fourth Protocol, Price of Magik. Christophe Brassart, 67 rue de l'Abbe Lemire, 59200 TOURCOING, France.

The Golden Baton, Worm in Paradise, Hobbit, Fourth Protocol (Pt 3 only). Andrew Blackman, 133 Ashen Drive, Dartford, Kent DA1 3LY. Tel: 0322 76887 5.30-8.30pm

ingeon Adventure, Lord of the Rings, Quest for the ily Grail, Hampstead, Lords of Time, Inca Curse, pionage Island, Planet of Death vid Lemon, 14 Norton Place, Dunfermline, Fife (11 4RH Tel: 0383 728353 after 6pm Mon-Fri

Adventureland, SubSunk, Heroes of Karn, Empire of Karn, Munroe Manor, Hacker, Classic Adventure, all early infocom titles, Jinxter, Guild Of Thieves, Plundered Hearts, Dracula, Hitchhiker's Guide, Mindshadow, Trager Sanction, Wishbringer, Trinity, The Pawn.
Chris Fleming, 235 Meola Road, Pt Chev, Auckland, N Zealand, Tel: 867074
The Hobbit Erikho

Zealand. Tel: 867074

The Hobbit, Erik the Viking, Castle of Terror, Eureka, Voodoo Castle, The Count, Heroes of Karn, Empire of Karn, Zork I, Zork III, Exodus, Ultima III, The Boggit, Lords of Time, Newsrending story, The Hulk, Temple of Terror, Ultima IV, Seabase Delta, Kentilla, Valkyrie 17, Sherlock, The fourth protocol, The Heim, Wizard of Akyrz, Perseus and Andromeda, Lord of the rings (part 1), Emerald Isle, Quest for the Holy Grall, Hacker, Colossal Cave.

Steven Kelly, 4 South View, Whins Lane, Simonstone, Burnley, Lancs 8812 7QU. Tel: 0282 74765 (between 6pm and 10 pm)

Amazon, Borrowed Time, Castle of Terror, Castle Adventure, Computer Adventure, Dracula part 1, Grand Larceny, Haunted House, Himalayan Adventure, Labyrinth, Mad Mummy, Mindshadow, Murder on the Waterfront, Never ending story, Ninja, Raka-tua Volcano, Scroll of Akhbar, Seabase Delta, Silver Mountain, Subsunk, The Boggit, The Dallas quest, The Hobbit, Ultima IV, Voodoo Castle, Zork I, Zork III, Zzzz.
Mario Moeller, 38 Greenvale Drive, Greenvale, 3047, Vic. Australia.

Ultima IV, The Bard's Tale, Voodoo Castle, Phantasis I, Never Ending Story, Dracula, The Prince of Magic, Borrowed Time, The Pawn, Seabase Delta, Deadline, Zork III, Wishbringer. Derek Wong, 42 Ingram Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 8EB.

Hitchhiker's Guide, The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings, The Shadows of Mordor, Guild of Thieves, Jinxter. Warren Lee Melia, 1 Thornhill Avenue, Rishton, Blackburn, Lancs, BB1 4EZ.

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The Hobbit, Seastalker, Trinity, Leather Goddesses, Beurocracy, Hitchhiker's Guide, Stationfall. Carl Kuttelwascher, 6 Robin Hill Drive, Camberley, Surrey. GU15 TEG

FANZINE FRENZY

Sometime, somehow, some day, some way, I'm going to throw that blister-belly Gordo out of the window and give myself enough space to compose a lightly cultural and dead intellectual piece on the adventure fanzines and clubs going down your way at the moment. Samples, details or any information that you'd like me to include will be screwed up, vomited over and dealt with in the appropriate manner by me, Chuck Vomit, the betentacled, terrible, turd-loving troll himself. (I think he means, send in your fanzines for a feature in the near future — Gordo).













Score a goal, race on two wheels, compete in the Bob Sled, Ski jump. Sialom and downhill. Match strokes with Nick Faldo, make the winning break against Steve Davis but play a straight bat as Ian Botham. Enter the arena in Track & Field as you compete in 100 metres dash, Long Jump, Javelin, 110 metre hurdles. Hammer Throw and High Jump and if that doesn't finish you off then throw

jump shots against the basket ball aces and go for a touchdown in the NFL.
Superbowl – then you can sit down ... in the cockpit of a Formula 1 racing car as
you compete to take the chequered flag! Check out GSM 2 – the ultimate in
sports compilations for the SPECTRUM, COMMODORE and AMSTRAD micros.













Central Street - Manchester



I've had a lot of letters this month from people who say the Rrap just hasn't been serious enough and even more saying they prefer the humorous touch. Well, the postbag has been so varied that this Rrap may just manage to please everyone (fat chance). Grab a handful of crisps and put your feet up for a sackful of severely serious and specially silly debates.

I WANT TO BE A REVIEWER

Dear Lloyd, This letter is not about piracy (which will always continue) nor is it about clones (there's only so many things you can do with a 64 anyway). You wanna see what my moggie does with it! No, what this letter is about is, forget Ecto and Endo Morph - what do you think of my impression of the Hamza creature reviewing an ace (can I say that?!) game? Talking of reviews, is this letter zany enough to qualify for a job as a reviewer on ZZAP!? Bbbyyyeee!!!

D Sherwood, London



nice pic, D, very nice. Talking of reviewers, Paul whaddya mean my legs are thin' Glancey, overwhelmed by the amount of work we have to do here, has reserved himself a place in a mountain sanatorium to recover. Anyone who feels capable of taking over his job should write to Gordon enclosing a full CV and a sample review. You need to be at least 16, preferably over 18, have a good knowledge of computer gaming and the ability to write entertaining, accurate reviews (and that means desent speling and gramurr as well). Think you can do better than the ZZAP! crew? Well, get out your pen and go for it – now! LM

DOWN WIV AMIGAS!

Dear Lloyd, It has come to my attention that despite your assurances of loyalty to the good ol' 64, your magazine is becoming more and more Amiga (boo, hiss) orientated. Originally, there was an Amiga roundup every few months, then every month, then Amiga (boo, hiss) previews, then Amiga (boo, hiss) adventures. Admit it, you would prefer it if you didn't have to use those pathetic 8-bit machines. I am sure it won't be long before the whole mag is just Amiga (boo, hiss).

By the way, I hate Amigas (boo, hiss, what a loadarubbish). Please could you stop rereviewing games, like Impossible Mission II, Nebulus, Cybernoid. I would much prefer it if you just gave new ratings, and briefly explained how it differs from the C64 version.

Merry Christmas to one and all (except Amiga lovers) long live the 64.

James Squirrell, Dorking

Aren't you exaggerating just a teeny tad-ette by saying that the Amiga's taking over the mag? Apart from the Amiga special in the November issue, every ZZAP! yet has had far more pages devoted to 64 reviews. tips and features than the Amiga.

Let's face it - the Amiga is one of the machines of the future, so as a Commodore mag, we can't exactly ignore it, can we? On the other hand, we know that the majority of our readers are still 64 owners and we're still trying to provide the best possible service for them. After all we couldn't have made it without

Oh, and from next Issue, we're having a rethink (as I've said already in these pages) about how we review 64 and Amiga games - so keep a look out for that. LM

ICENSED TO STINK

Dear Lloyd, I would first like to congratulate you on an excellent magazine. It is hilarious. The reviewer profiles in Issue 44 were great. I laughed till my sides ached. Also I'm glad that Rockford and Thingy are back. Thingy is sooooo . . . trendy! (Who is that other one, the one with the big nose?)

Now, onto my main point, I am constantly annoyed by these so-called 'leading software houses' that keep churning out these 'arcade conversions' and their clones. These companies always seem to choose companies that could never possibly convert properly to their clones. These companies always seem to choose games that could never possibly convert properly to the home computers. Don't get me wrong, I love arcade games as much as the next man (or fish for that matter) but it angers me to find that, when a company gets an arcade game that can be converted, they often mess it up: eg. Domark's Star Wars and The Empire Strikes Back could have been done perfectly well in hiresolution to give better vector graphics (like in Elite). When the official license messes up I would at least expect the clone to be good. The Roadblasters type of

expect the clone to be good. The Roadblasters type of game, I would have thought, is quite a straightforward bit of programming for a professional software company. However, after the expected US Gold failure, it was left to Elite (manufacturers of the greatest driving game on any Commodore computer) to come driving game on any Commodore computer) to come up with the goods. They came up with Overlander which was awful and is also an anagram of 'dnlreovear' which is double dutch for 'mine's a Guinness

Will the software companies such as Domark, US Gold and Elite (as well as many others) pull their fingers out and manufacture arcade conversions to the standard of Firebird's Bubble Bobble, for example. The software buying public awaits your reply!

David Exton, Stafford

You're right – a few really excellent exceptions aside, like Ghosts 'n' Goblins, there have been some disappointing licenses and a lot of them have still managed to sell really well in spite of the quality of the actual games. Personally, I think it's a real shame that big name conversions have been getting such a large slice of the market for the past few years because it seems to be pushing better quality but less-publicised games out of the running. A pity because many of the real 64 classics (games like Spindizzy, The Sentinel and Wizball) have been original non-converted games.

As long as people continue to buy the more disappointing conversions in droves there won't be much incentive for the software companies to improve the quality. I reckon licenses have been getting a lot better recently (witness Grandslam's Pacmania for one) but you're the consumer and it's up to you to exercise your rights – buy carefully and the quality of conversions will improve even more. LM

HIYAAA! NYGAAA! WAGH!

Dear Lloyd (the man with no face).

It's great to ses some new reviewers, but could you tell this Kati Hamza person to calm down a bit? Since she arrived at ZZAP!, she's been obsessed with words like HIIIYAAAA! AAAARGH! MNGGGGH! YEEEEHA! WEYHEY! YIPEEE! and other words that are equally unpronouncable. When she's not tussling with multiloads and jigging around the office, she's impersonating four-legged Dutchmen in penguin suits. I suggest you sit her down in a

quiet corner, give her a mug of Horlicks, keep her away from PG, and play Cliff Richard records (zzzzz). If this fails, then send a stamped addressed envelope with £400 worth of empty banana skins, to Dr Roof, Hyperactive dept, for 1ml of Dr Roof's Calm-U-Down lotion (complete with syringe). Please allow 28 months for

delivery.

A concerned reviewer analiser, Thornbury, Bristol.

Well, we've tried but we just haven't been able to get her off the roof since she won the challenge. Send the lotion and syringe immediately.



IS THE RRAP **CRRAP?**

Dear Lloyd, I mean, what the hell is going on? Pictures of gorillas? Nutters waffling on about buying computer games, not realising they were porno mags? A strange man called John Smith who thinks he's Bobby Robson? What in the name of Ken Barlow happened to the old RRAP? That

dependable literary section of the magazine that one could read on the way home from Bognor Regis (after visiting Aunt Nell

But alas no, no more of the reasonably sane letters from Steve Davis supporters, discussing such relevant issues as multiloads and how much milk they should put on their Raisin Splitz. No, now what do we have? 'Pilchard of the month', 'The most boring letter we've ever received' and an

annoying dickhead who suggests that you (ZZAP! remember) doctor the marks for games in exchange for a fiver in the back pocket!

David Washer, Wembley.

... Since my visit to England last August I am an avid reader of ZZAP!. I had heard about your mag some time ago, and so I was glad to have the opportunity to read it. I must admit that I was really impressed.

One thing I like very much is your great humour – one example: the ZZAP! Challenge. And it's a good feature of the

ZZAP! crew that they can laugh about themselves.

But there are some things that could be better. First of all, the Rrap itself: in German mags, such a section is installed to give the readers the opportunity to criticize or praise (?) the mag. But the Rrap consists only of rubbish! Nothing against you, but if this is a representative part of the monthly mail, it would be the best to throw the Rrap out of the mag and to replace it by some extra reviews.

Take Issue 43. The only letters worth to be put into the Rrap are 'AMIGA 'BACON' REACTION', 'MR LOGIC WRITES'.

So what else? I was delighted to see a girl entering the ZZAP! crew because it proves that computers needn't be a boys thing. But her pictures are awful: pleeeeease make some new ones.

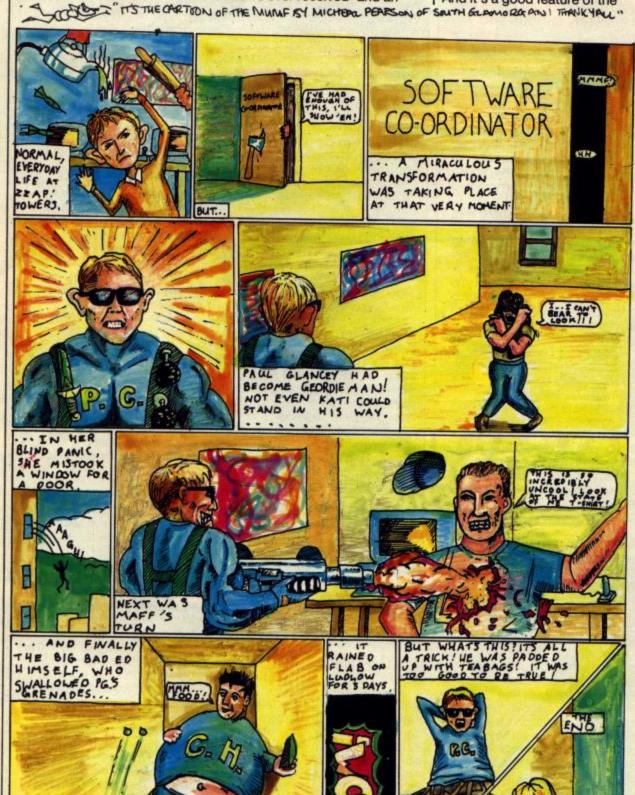
Well, I think, that's it. No numbers, no silly stuff (as I hope!). It would be nice if this letter could help you to improve the Rrap a bit. It's important to give the readers the opportunity to express their opinions – but it's not necessary to print three pages full of rubbish.

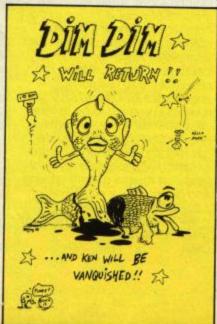
Alexander Schwassmann, West Germany.

As always with the Rrap, we publish a fair cross-section of the letters we receive. In the Christmas Issue – and indeed a lot recently – we've been receiving loads of 'humorous' letters from 'odd' people. If people send us letters on industrial to the send us letters on industrial to th important software issues that simply restate views on piracy, multiloads, etc, that we've heard a hundred times before, they won't be printed. Letters that have a new angle will. Similarly, if we get a letter that makes us laugh and we think will make other people laugh, we'll print it.

As another point entirely, readers are quite welcome to write in stating whether or not they think the Rrap - or ZZAP! in general – is too funny, too serious or just right. £30 of software for the best letter, as

usual.





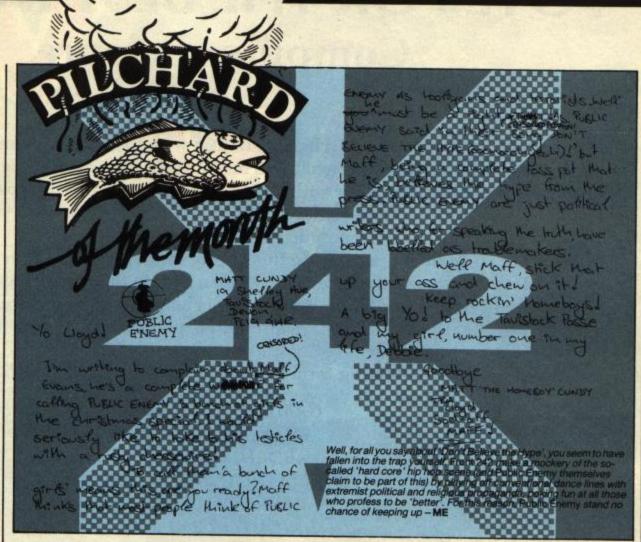
38



A VIZ FAN WRITES 3

Dear Lloyd, What a con these so called computer' magazines are. The other day I purchased one of these 'computer' magazines and took it straight home. After eleven unsuccessful attempts to load Hawkeye into it, I decided to take it back to the shop. Imagine my surprise when a shop assistant pointed out that a computer magazine was in fact a publication containing relevant information about the latest computer hardware and software, and not something for playing games on! How many other readers have been conned by these so called 'computer' magazines?

Conned, Fulchester



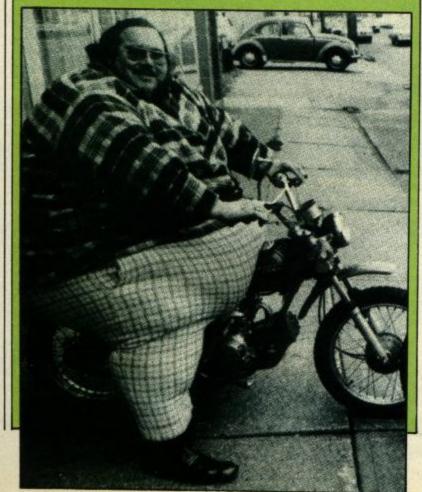
A death warrant has been served on the author of this letter. Any more Viz-style letters will be similarly dealt with.

LM

LOOKALIKE 2

Dear Lloyd, In reply to Mr P Glancey's letter referring to the fact that Gordo looks like an orang-utan, I feel that I should say that I agree with him totally. In fact, the picture reminded me where I had seen him before. I enclose a picture of the Mr Houghton in question, trying out his new 50cc fizz-ped. I'm sure you'll all agree that Gordo has put a lot of weight on since the photo. It must be all the bacon butties.

Craig 'Gonads' Hurt, Derby



ZZAP! 64/AMIGA LOVING FUN

Dear Lloyd,
I'm Danish (but please don't hold that against me), probably one of your oldest fans (over 20), and have been with you since the very beginning, when the first issue, starring Julian Rignall, Gary Penn and Bob Wade, hit the streets.

Unfortunately, as often happens in real life, I fell in love with another. Her name was Amiga, and from now on my old and trusty 64 was pushed aside in favour of this new beauty. There was one problem though: ZZAP! 64 didn't cover the Amiga! 'Well, I'll just have to find myself another mag', I thought, and began to check out the market. After some time, I ended up with THE GAMES MACHINE, but although their Amiga coverage is acceptable, I still wasn't satisfied. Their rating system isn't very good compared to ZZAP!'s, and having to read all that Atari ST stuff totally ruined my digestion (in Denmark there's almost a state of war between Amiga and Atar . . . (urrgh!) - the other 16bit machine).

Then one gray rainy autumn day, as I went down to the store for a newspaper, it happened: I saw the new ZZAP! logo. ZZAP! had now grown from 64-only into a real Commodore mag covering both the 64 and the Amiga! Great hooray wauw yipii! Suddenly the rain stopped, the sun began to shine and the birds were singing under a deep blue sky. I'm back with ZZAP! now, and I'm looking to reading it every month. You certainly are the number one games mag in Europe – keep up the good work.

Sigurd Svendsen, Denmark.

At the moment, we're still not entirely settled on the way in which we'll review Amiga games — in fact, as from next Issue (which will be a New Look Issue!), we'll be re-examining the way we review games in general: you can be sure, however, that our reviews will be more entertaining, more informative and more colourful. Similar tweaking will be occurring throughout the rest of the mag—not just to the Amiga and 64 sections.

LM

So, that's it for another month. If you have any opinions on anything and you think that everyone else would like to know about them, send your scribbled epistles to LLOYD MANGRAM, ZZAP! RRAP, PO BOX 10, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE, SY8 1DB. Oh, and before I go to throw some ice-hard snowballs at the rest of the ZZAP! crew, I'm sure you'll join me in wishing Paul Glancey well in his future career. So long, Paul, and thanks for all the bacon.

VOTE FOR THE BEST IN 1988

Computer Leisure Awards

For the first time ever, you will be able to join with the readers of many other British magazines to decide who and what was best in 1988. Awards will be made to software producers resulting from your voting through, this, your own magazine, for what you considered to be the best games you have played on your

computer during the past year.

Many other magazines are carrying this voting form. It means the results will truly be democratic, and therefore really mean a lot to those who receive them.

The votes will be collated by an independent company, to whom you should post your voting form, and the awards will be presented at the Computer Leisure Industry's 'get together' — Computer Arena — in March 1989.

So, simply fill-in the voting form below, cut it out (or photocopy it) and send it to:

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Closing date 25th Feb 89	ARDS 1988 VOTING FORM
AMIGA AMSTRAD CPC AMSTRAD CPC	3) Please state what you consider to be the BEST GAME OVERALL of 1988:
ELECTRON COMMODORE 64/128 PC COMPATIBLES ATARI ST SPECTRUM	4) Which Software House do you choose as being the most consistent in producing high quality computer games during 1988:
1. Best ARCADE game 2. Best ADVENTURE game 3. Best STRATEGY/WAR game 4. Best MUSIC with game 5. Best USE OF GRAPHICS	t ticked above) of 1988;



To celebrate the new year 'Dangerous' Martin Walker jiggles about a bit more in the CITADEL



Thursday 3rd November

After a little while in most projects there are little things that need doing which start to mount up – this is one of those days when a whole batch of them gets sorted out! My top screen splits are now rock solid whatever the vertical scroll position and however many sprites are underneath the split (fingers crossed that it stays that way!) and the bullets now emerge accurately from the middle of Monitor. The pause and quit controls are properly in situ, so I can freeze everything to spot possible future bugs as they happen. Other assorted tweaks have

been installed and tested to streamline my interrupt routines even at this stage catering for up to 18 sprites on screen soaks up interrupt time, and some routines may have to be rethought if this time simply runs out.



Friday 4th November

The next routine to be added will detect alien sprite collisions with Monitor (there's no fun at this ge unless there is some DANGER), so with streamlining in mind many sheets of paper were filled with thoughts. The initially obvious way to do it is to detect sprite to sprite collisions, and for all those out there who haven't written a game, NOBODY uses the inbuilt hardware collision detection, simply because it needs so many additional checks to tell you WHICH sprites were involved! After thinking through various

schemes, the merits of 'Look before you leap' programming were proved once again. Since my 'character bullets to alien sprite' collision routine looks for the

character beneath the sprite, by simply plotting a special group of characters beneath Monitor the same routine will detect alien sprite collisions with Monitor! A neat piece of timing ensures that these will never be visible, and by reshuffling the character set the routine will simultaneously detect aliens AND their own bullets hitting walls - all with no increase in detection time!



Sunday 6th November

Over the weekend much study and thought resulted in two old routines being restructured for greater speed while preparing for the new collision add-ons. This freed a little more interrupt time ready for multitudinous aliens. Incidentally, anyone who's marvelled at the number of moving objects in ARMALYTE may be interested to learn that some critical routines were completely rewritten three or even four times, each being faster than the previous – this dedication certainly shows in the final version with more aliens, more and faster bullets and bigger motherships!



Monday 7th November

Today was a dream come true – if only every day could be so productive! By lunchtime collisions with Monitor were written, tested and debugged, and then I made a start on the alien movement routines.
By the end of the day there were not only moving aliens but moving bullets and aliens firing moving bullets, albeit always in the same direction!



Tuesday 8th November

While spending some time out in the big wide world (shopping to you!) I was horrified to notice that our local WH Smith's had apparently decimated its software stocks. It really did look as if they were winding down computer sales, so much so that I had a word with the manager, who was extremely helpful.



Wednesday 9th November

On with the baddies' weaponry. Now the bullets are in motion some thought needs to be given to the fastest routine to aim them accurately in the player's direction, as well as to give them 'personal-ity' by adding different 'looks', speeds and possibly homing characteristics. All of the day was spent adding improvements to the firing routine – firstly a delay was added to prevent firing until a short time after the trap appears. This allows enough time to react to things arriving on screen, and avoids those dreadful situations in some games when you get obliter-ated before you've even noticed the newcomer!



Friday 11th November Well, the first attempt at aiming enemy bullets was only partially successful. Certainly they came out in the correct direction, but with a speed dependent on how far away speed dependent on how far away the player was. This meant that guns at the far edge of the screen hurled flak at you, but if you got too close to them the bullets just

sat on top of the guns. Whoops! Just to show how accidents can prove fruitful, this did give me the idea of aliens dropping stationary mines to avoid. Maybe, maybe not.



Saturday 12th November

The second attempt worked perfectly, so I now have accurately aimed bullets to avoid from all directions. Not a pretty sight! In fact quite a bit of time was spent simply travelling around the cities seeing how the opposition felt in action. Different speeds of both aliens and bullets were tried in order to gauge playability. Fast alien bullets rarely give the player a chance to react and avoid them, but may still work in conjunction with a depleting energy bar rather than instant death to the player, since once alerted you can take steps to remove the aggressor.



Monday 14th November

Now that the basics of gameplay are working it's time to add a bit more feedback to the system. Today the scoring and energy systems were installed, and seem to work well in practice. At the moment energy is on a percentage basis. Collisions with enemy bullets and the aliens themse drain a part of your total shield energy, which will protect you from destruction until fully depleted.





Tuesday 15th November

Already interrupt time has run out in the worst possible case – ie, when the maximum number of sprites is on screen and moving and firing and all the player's bullets are moving as well as the player! Reorganisation of inter-rupt and mainline routines seems to be the order of the day, to allow more time for baddies on the interrupt. The key thought here is that some routines absolutely MUST occur every frame at an exact scan-line position (moving sprites will flicker unless moved during off screen time), but with a rethink some routines may be able to run during mainline time as long as they can occur at about once per frame to 'keep up'. Suffice it to say that after rejigging two routines I've managed to regain enough time to stop the overrun – a rewarding day even though nothing new has appeared!



Wednesday 16th November

Presentation of the basic game is so important I thought it high time that a few more sound effects were incorporated, along with a priority system to ensure that some sounds are more important than others. This ensures that you never fail to hear the sound of yourself being destroyed. Aren't I considerate?



Thursday 17th November

Right. Time to start planning the patrol system for mobile aliens. Off you go. No, come back here when I'm talking to you. What me? Yes you! This is getting silly. Click. Engaging sensible brain module. Click. OK, while I'm thinking about that let's get out the sprite editor

and see what we come up with. (Later) Several new sprites have emerged – including a new gun turret that spits out high speed deadly dealers of doom (try saying that with a mouthful of toast!) along with a few more varieties of mobile alien. One thing that I always like to do is to add personality to different species of baddy, so each will have its own distinctive weaponry (memory and pro-cessor time permitting!)



Friday 18th November

This afternoon saw me with my jaw hanging open as the homing routines were first kicked into action on screen. Try to imagine an intelligent bullet that tracks its chosen target, following it round every corner in relentless pursuit (remember Runaway with Tom Selleck?) Every faltering joystic move brings the brutes slightly closer. After dodging and weaving for over a minute in my test level and triggering more trap guns in passing I ended up with six of the brutes following me in a swarm! The only tactic found so far to dispose of them is to take the corners so tightly that the pursuers crash into the walls whilst trying to cut



Saturday 19th November

Well, after reorganising the interrupt and mainline routines my clever way of detecting collisions between the player and alien sprites has thrown a wobbly, so a different routine must be written to overcome this. All of this shuffling on the interrupt basically hinges on the fact that some routines must carry on regardless whilst others only need to be called occasionally – indeed it may be possible that a few may be missed altogether at times of desperate time shortage without anything being noticed (don't tell any-



Sunday 20th November

Will wonders never cease? Another brief foray into the com-fort of the sprite editor saw the creation of yet another static gun emplacement and then a further bout with this 'kinetic reflection business (see last month's diary). After a session examining the methods and results - three more vicious looking mods to the code cleared up minor problems arising from yesterday's contribution. Finally, the revised piping system for an alien cityscape was entered in hex ready to appear on screen. And very nice it looks too, if I say so myself!



Monday 21st November

Before I send off disks to my test pilots I must add the routine to allow mobile aliens to change direction only at junctions in the corridors, to stop them trying to crash through walls in a vain effort to catch me. This proved easy enough, and by the end of the day it's much more difficult to escape from the baddies



Wednesday 23rd November

The next chunk of code will have to make the mobile aliens slightly more intelligent. Although they now follow the corridor system, it is still too easy to lose them, so they will have to follow the player even while off screen. It's rather disconcerting to suddenly find a heavy concentration of traps ahead when you know that a squad of aliens are on your tail!



Friday 25th November

During a brief foray into the sound effects editor I came up with a new breed of metallic voices that are perfect for the alien firing sounds. They now have much more 'per-sonality' as well as sounding far more 'alien' and menacing. I'm constantly amazed how players have 'translated' the pseudo voices in HUNTER'S MOON. Not only do the aliens apparently say 'Hiya' as they spit death at you but the starcells cry 'Meanwhile' as you collect them. Not a lot of people know that!



Monday 28th November

Back with a vengeance. At long last the special module has been designed that lets me design levels by scrolling round dropping traps wherever I like, rather than cal-culating it all by hand (or calculator as the case may be). Following a few minor mishaps in which dozens of traps appeared in the middle of walls came the serious business of a sample design session.

Planting traps in all sorts of interesting places and groupings proved great fun, but the big surprise came on leaving the game and checking the trap tables for bugs. The new level, bristling with defences and fairly bursting with baddies had (wait for it!) 55 traps! My previous top limit of 128 (or even the original 256) seems to have been VERY generous. That should free some memory for more



Wednesday 30th November

The level designer now has many additions - it allows pieces of city to be 'dropped' anywhere in the play area and different styles of cityscape to be perused in any col-our scheme. Once again in testing it another design emerged, as well

as some ideas for extra 'city pieces' to add variety. Remember that as each city is constructed from stan-dard pieces, like Scalextric, the full 16 screens of play area on each level can be specified in 64 bytes!



Thursday 1st December

Unanimous agreement from my test pilots - it's more fun trying to escape destruction with 'loadsatraps' activated, so I've decided to trigger them by proximity with Monitor, rather than by actual contact. This will mean that racing about wills pills will (those last about willy nilly will (those last three words sound weird!) result in furious activity in the city! After thinking it through, several routines can be restructured at the same time to save more time in the long run. This is what writing games is all about - idea/test/discard or improve. Who remember a certain Mr. Braybrook ripping out the player's sprite bullets a week before the end of the MORPHEUS



Friday 2nd December
A real slog today to reorganise the alien movement, firing and homing routines ready to add the proximity coding. It took 6 hours of rewriting before all were ready (with more interrupt time freed. Hooray!) The proximity routine itself was written during the time itself was written during the time it took to assemble the reorganised source code (Oh for a faster development system!), and kicking the whole thing into action showed that all the effort had been well worthwhile. Now you can no longer creep past the traps and get away with it. Just to prove it, I tried racing around the corridor avoiding eventhing I didn't ridors avoiding everything. I didn't last very long!

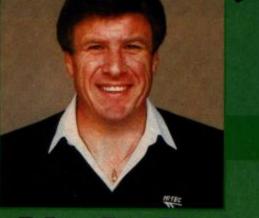


Saturday 3rd December

As a follow up to my comments earlier about WH Smiths, you may be interested to learn that they have just made their main com puter buyer redundant – due to fal-ling hardware sales! And in the same issue of Computer Trade Weekly came the following quote from a spokesman at HMV Reading branch: "Next year our software stock will lessen – it just doesn't sell.

Perhaps this reflects the fact that if high street shops won't demonstrate games then real enthusiasts will buy mail order from the 'pile of boxes in the gar-age' supplier and save up to 30% on high street prices. After all, 30% IS a lot more to pay simply to see the empty packaging! Long live the good independent dealers! See you next month.

Emlyn Hughes



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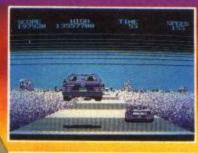
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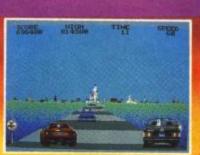




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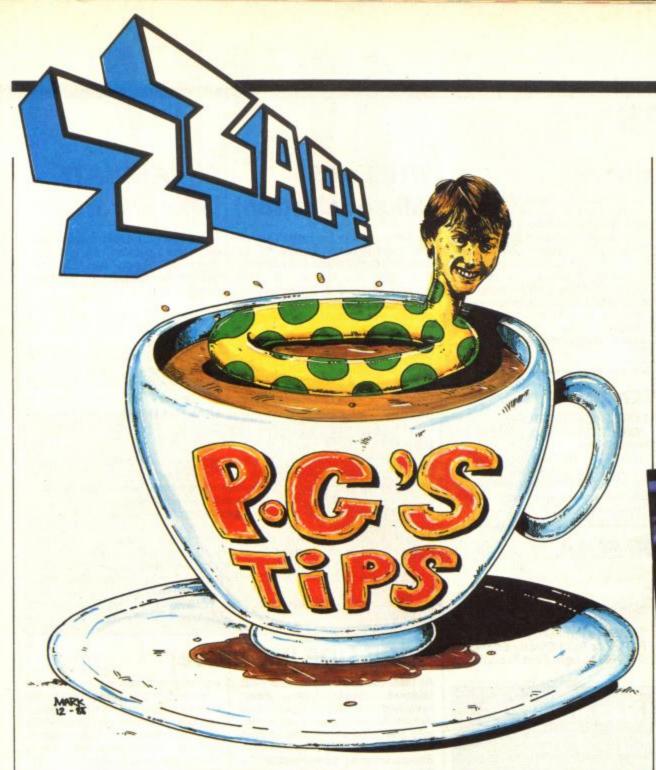
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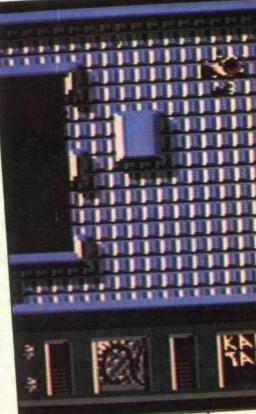
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PARALLAX (Ocean)

Aha. Now this is a much better cover freebie than that whiffy old Time Tunnel, but seeing the old Time Tunnel, but seeing the higher levels might take a while. BU-U-UT if you have the passwords you can get through to the wonderful electric sea level in a trice, and those passwords are STACK, JEWEL, PARCH, SALON and GLOBE. Now all you have to do to complete a level is find a scientist, drug him, go to the central computer and type in the password. Oh, that tip comes to password. Oh, that tip comes to you all the way from Michael Nielsen of Denmark. Tips across the water, eh?



nowwww, the end is And nowww, the end is neeear, and so I faaace, the final curtainnnn, dumdooooo, dumdoobedoooo . . . You may be wondering why I'm writing my world famous textual Sinatra impersonation. Well, the truth is, this a rather sad occasion,

because this is the last ever intro to the last ever edition of PG's Tips! Yes, it's true. I'm afraid Ludlow just doesn't have enough bacon to support my pork-loving lifestyle, so I'm off to smokier climes.

So, from next month, you'll

have the redoubtable Matthew have the redoubtable Matthew 'S***e' Evans to provide you with maps, POKEs and cheats. But, as a parting gift, I'm leaving you a map and solution to Last Ninja 2 and a veritable load of tips. Are you sitting tips. Are you sitting comfortably? Prepare to reset!

ARMALYTE (Thalamus)

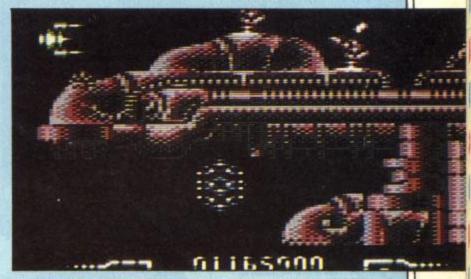
Sorry, but no infinite lives POKEs as yet, but here's a rather nice hack for those of you with the disk version of this fabbo blaster.

James Blonden provided these POKEs to rearrange the order in which you play through the levels. LOAD up the game as per usual, then when the selection screen appears swirling its spheres at you, hit the button on your favourite reset switch and when the prompt appears use one of the POKEs below to switch things around.

Level	POKE
One Two Three Four Five Six Seven	POKE 10328, X POKE 10329, X POKE 10330, X POKE 10331, X POKE 10332, X POKE 10333, X POKE 10334, X POKE 10335, X

Where X=

68 to play that level first
69 to play that level second
76 to play that level third
72 to play that level fourth
85 to play that level fifth
78 to play that level sixth
65 to play that level seventh
82 to play that level eighth 82 to play that level eighth



To elucidate, if you wanted to start the game on level eight, you would type POKE 10335, 68 (RETURN). See? Anyway, once you've done that, SYS 2066 (Return) to restart. Isn't life wonderful?



ARGLIDER 2 (Rainbird)

Here's a mini tip which could change the nature of the solar system as we know it. In fact it does change the nature of the Solice system, giving the ICARUS unlimited shield power, fuel and laser energy. As soon as you start the game, bring the ICARUS to a complete halt, select floating sight (press F), then pause the game and type WERE ON A MISSION FROM GOD (including the spaces) and press

1. If you've done everything correctly, the shield, laser and fuel displays will drop and they'll remain at that level for the rest of the game. Now if you press K you will get a full complement of missiles, bombs, an energy cube launcher and even the neutron bomb! Cripes-a-lawdy! Thanks to Philip Johnson of Stebbing for that sizzling soaraway stunna of a tip.

FRIGHTMARE (Cascade)

I can't recall ever having printed some POKEs for this weird plat-form game, but Flemming Dup-ont of Denmark thought it was about time I did. So here they are. LOAD, reset and enter . .

POKE 21829,169 (RETURN)

POKE 21830,0 (RETURN) POKE 21831,234 (RETURN) for invincibility SYS 16384 (RETURN) to restart.

Right? OK? I mean, can I move on to something else now?

BY FAIR MEANS OR FOUL (Superior)

A few passwords here for me old mate Jason's game of pugilistic apes, as sent in by The Breaker. LOAD the game as usual and when the opportunity arises

type in:

TALON to fight Dirty Larry PARTY to fight Steady Eddie SWORD to fight Fast Freddie

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BATTLE ISLAND (Novagen)

A hack or two for Novagen's latest (but not greatest), provided by The Breaker. These provide infinite lives or bombs in two easy to swallow forms – use either a listing or reset POKEs as befits the nature of your astrological . . . er . . . bias. Yes. Well, here are the POKEs. LOAD, reset and enter:

POKE 50228,173 (RETURN) – Infinite lives POKE 64090,173 (RETURN) – Infinite bombs SYS 24064 Restarts

If you haven't got a reset switch, type in the listing below and save it to tape for future use if you like. Now put your tape in the C2N and type LOAD (RETURN) (not SHIFT and RUN/STOP). After the first part of the game loads, a prompt will appear so type SYS 272 (RETURN) to load the rest. When it finally does finis loading, you should be able to start hunting for those brid bits with infinite lives and bombs.

- 0 REM BATTLE ISLAND CHEAT BY THE BREAKER 10 FOR I=272 TO 343: READ A: POKE I,A: NEXT: NEW
- .
- 20 DATA
- 32,129,255,141,4,212,169,35,141,236,3,169,1,141, 237, 3,76,13,8,169,64
 - 30 DATA
 - 141,133,239,169,1,141,134,239,169,4,141,127,239, 169, 4,141,127,239,169,3,141,126,239,169
- .
- .

.

- 19,141,125,239,32,0,224,96,169,77,141,139,10,169
- ,1,141, 140,10,76,0,10
- 50 DATA 169,173,141,52,196,141,90,250,76,0,94

WHEELIES (Micro Selection)

Indestructibility for both Tarkus and Eugene (don't I know him?) can be yours in this cutesy col-lect 'em up, thanks to The Breaker. Just LOAD up the game, just as you would any other day of the year then depress the reset switch (saying that its girlfriend is two-timing it for a phono plug is a good idea). Now type in POKE 19249,173 (RE-TURN) then SYS 16579 (RE-TURN), and you can get rolling!

CHEAPSKATE (Silverbird)

Not a bad game this, but a weeny bit hard I reckon, so get your finger out of your ear, LOAD the game, reset, and type in these Breaker POKEs.

POKE 6339,0 (RETURN) for infinite time POKE 7616,173 (RETURN) for infinite lives SYS 4096 (RETURN) restarts the

TIME TUNNEL (US Gold)

We've had quite a few calls from bewildered gnomic types trying to work out what the hell they're supposed to do to get started in this tacky arcade adventure which 'graced' the cover of Issue 42. SI HI from Swansea has sent in the method for activating the time machine, and it entails the following:

Pick up the log in the pool room and place it in the fire place. Now zap it and an object should appear on the table. Pick it up, climb the ladder in the time machine room and place the object on the ledge. You can now select a date, press the fire button and you're there!

Well, what can I say apart from 'Woo hoo me old petunias! An' all that .

DARK SIDE (Incentive)

At last, the location of the final telepod crystal has been revealed by Colin Neal and Rehan. All you have to do is run into the letters D, A and R then enter the second part of Callisto Stores where you should find a little switch. Shoot the switch before it disappears and go through the triangle to the lapetus sector. Enter the

equator tunnel and head west. The part of the tunnel under the Ganyde sector contains three lights on the roof, and the middle one of these is the telepod crystal. Before you run into it, shoot the connecting wire until the crystal changes shape then pick it up, because otherwise you'll lose shield energy.

ROY OF THE ROVERS (Gremlin)

This is one of the worst games've seen in recent months, but Simon 'Chopper Babs' Bibby bought the game before he read the ZZAP! review . . . Oh dear. Well, Simon is obviously a tenacious sort of person, because he managed to stay with it long enough to provide some tips for the team rescuing section.

First, collect the membership card from Roy's house which

identifies you as a member of Psychopaths Anonymous and lets you past all the muggers and baddles. Now you have to get the hard hat, which, of course, you find in the estate agents. Thus equipped, you can go to the building site where you should enter the main blue building and pick up the rusty iron key. Use this (God knows how) to get from the bottom of the crane to the top, where you should find Duncan McKay.

Now go to the Burger Bar and pick up the shiny brass key. Take this to the fast food checkout and use it to open the door, thus releasing Andy Styles.

The next venue on the agenda is the hypermarket. Walk to the end of row B and use the much favoured 'Trial And Error' method to deactivate the security lock at the fuse box. You will then have rescued Bob Richards from his small brick prison.

The last player is held at the distribution depot but the guard

won't accept your membership card. What you need is the pass from the shady character who appears at the King's Head and the Farmer's Arms. But how to get it? Haha, well, that would be

telling, wouldn't it?

Oh, by the way Chopper, I passed on your message to Maff about Blackburn Rovers being crap, and his reaction was, 'Eh?'. Gordon, on the other hand, wasted no time in beating my head to a pulp. Thanks Gordo.

(System 3) LEVEL 1 - CENTRAL PARK Cor, heck, and all that. This must be one of the most solved games ever. It's only been out for a couple of months but I have been FLOODED with solutions and maps of the game's seven levels. The best map and tips were from Wayne Fowler and Tim Haines who are our cartographers of the month (polite ripple of applause from appreciative audience). After that the list of names is too vast and cosmic to fit in my humble pages, so I'll

THANK YOU

to all of you who took the time off from joystick molesting to send in your tips.

You start off in a sort of open-air theatre, so go through the curtain and punch the flashing yellow box to reveal a trapdoor on the stage on the first screen. Drop through the trapdoor and you will be under the stage where you should find (bottom left corner) a key. Take this.

The nunchukka is in two parts, both of which are in separate ladies' lavvies (the bits look suspiciously like toilet chains to me). Just enter each loo and use the pick up action to collect them.

Pick up the hamburger on the hamburger stand and use it to

top up your energy.
There are some shurikens in a box between two benches on the screen before the juggler.

To get past the juggler, just keep somersaulting. Get the map on the screen

after the juggler.

Climb up the trellis on the screen with the map, then cross over to the next screen and somersault across the gaps to find the staff. Remember to climb down backwards.

Use the key to open the gate,

EXIT KEY E - ENEMY BEES K - KEY ST - STAFF M - MAP OR SCROLL J - JUGGLER H - HAMBURGER S - SHIRAKEN N - NUNCHUKAS TD - TRAP DOOR O-START

then wait for the boat to drift near you on the next screen and somersault onto it. When it stops moving, somersault onto the other bank.

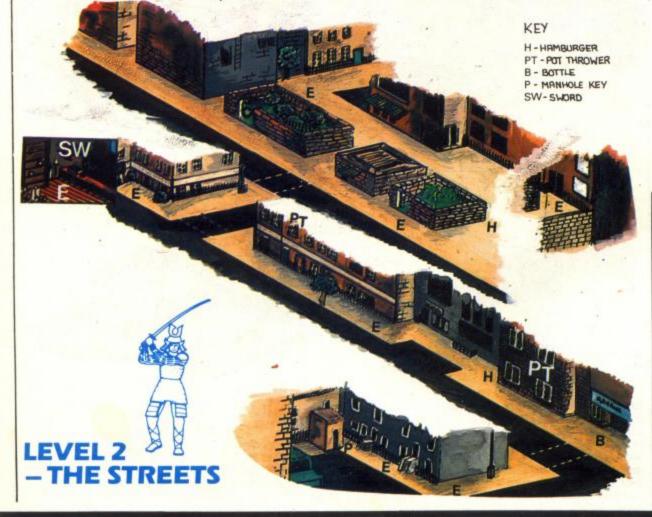
1 - UP

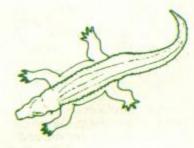
Dodge the bees and take the right hand path then somersault

onto the next screen.

Try to land on the island, then push at the boat with your staff and jump back onto the bee screen. This time take the other path and you will end up by another stretch of river bank

with the boat from the island floating past. Jump onto the boat then jump to the other side, and you can load the next section of the game.





Only cross the roads when the lights are in your favour or you'll be squashed into a slimey pulp by a speeding motorbike. Enter the workman's hut and

'pick up' and you should collect

a manhole key.

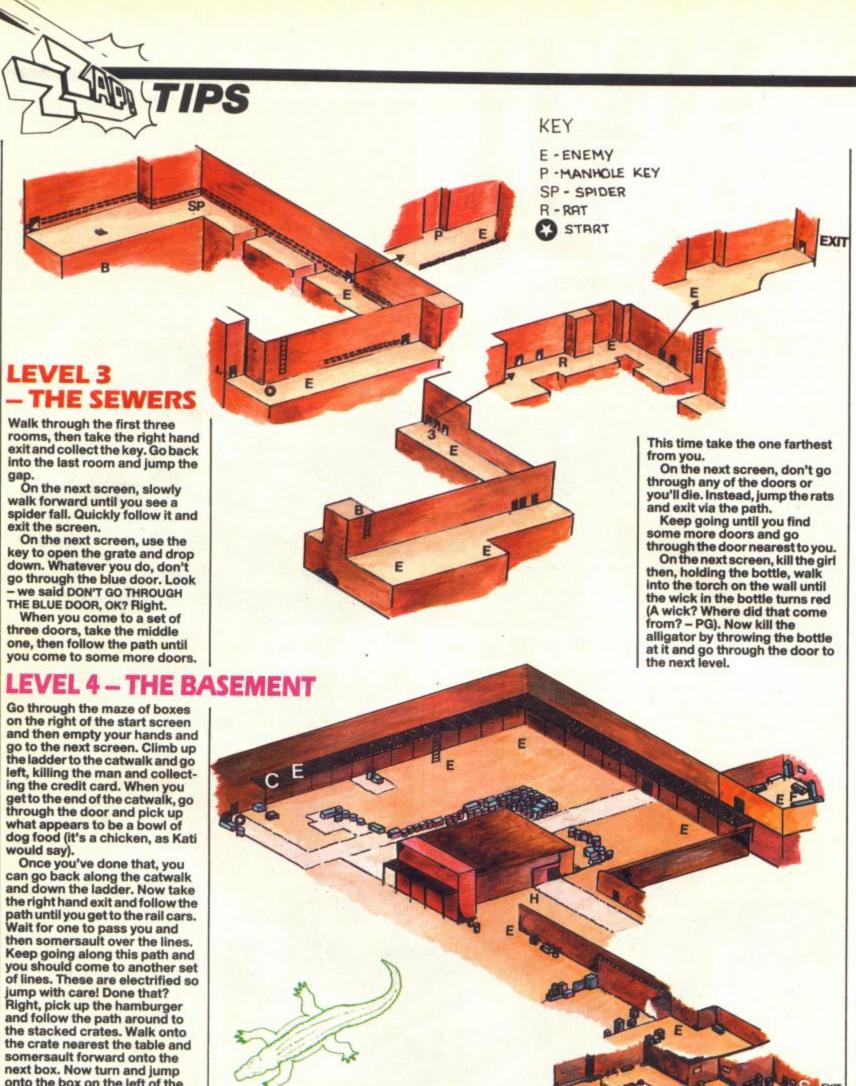
When you enter the screen with the flashing door, kill the thug and kick down the door. Enter the martial arts shop, beat up the shopkeeper and collect the sword from the wall.

Find the drunk and take the bottle from him.

Take the hotdog from the hotdog stand to regain some energy.

Beware of the man leaning out of the window – he throws a pretty mean flower pot.

Exit this level by using the key to open the manhole on the path, and drop through it.



onto the box on the left of the screen, face right and somersault onto the little box then onto the other side. Erm, a bit convoluted I know, but perhaps it would clarify things if I say that

tern resembles a zigzag. Moving on from there, you should find yourself in a room filled with bottles. Go straight down, kill the blue man on the next screen, then on the following screen you should find a

the whole jumping-about pat-

flashing white object in a box. Hold the chicken and collect the box (this poisons the chicken). Go back to the bottle room,

take the exit on the right and you should be face to face with a hungry panther. Hold the chicken and walk forward slowly until it sits up. Take one more step forward and use the pick up method to lure the panther towards you. It will then

take the chicken, eat it and die. Go past the dead panther to the next screen and use the credit card on the white box to enter the lift and go up to . . .

E-ENEMY

C- CARD

KEY

F-F000

H-HAMBURGER

START

LEVEL 5 - THE OFFICE

Leave the first screen and go through the blue door and touch the computer in the office. The computer will give you a number which those of you with particularly poor memories should note down.

Go back out and follow the path down and around to a screen with two doors on it. Go through the top one and walk over to the desk near the pictures. Stand at the bottom and use the 'pick up' movement to touch the button on the table, thus opening a secret door.

Climb the ladder on the next screen to reach the second floor of the offices, then go out through the door. Go through to

a room with a fan in it, stand close to the wall and face backwards. Keep nudging the ninja backwards until you reach the back wall then go to the grate and use 'pick up' again to open it. Go out onto the ledge.

Follow the ledge around and go up the ladder. Kill the next man you see then put away all your weapons. When you get to the last screen of this level you will see Kunitoki making his escape in a helicopter. Stand at the top right hand corner of the screen and when the helicopter leaves, somersault off the building and onto its landing skid. The helicopter will now carry you to the next level which is . .

LEVEL 6 – THE MANSION

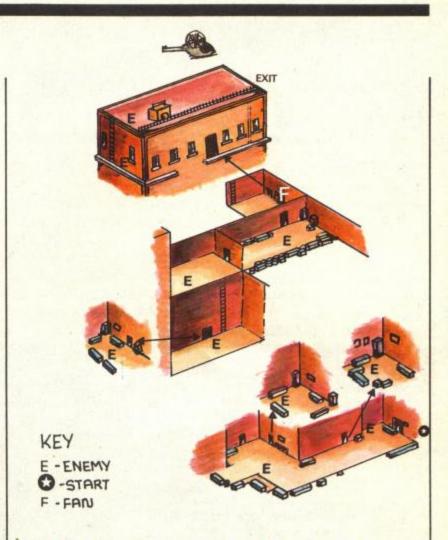
This level starts with you still hanging onto the helicopter, so to get off without killing yourself, pull down on the joystick when it flies past the turret and you should drop down safely. Some rsault forward, landing in line with the turret on the left, then somersault again to land on it. Now gently nudge left off the turret and walk along the grey strip until you reach the window. Face the window and somersault again to land inside the mansion.

Walk down the corridor into

big door and collect the rope so that you can go down in the dumb waiter.

Turn off the alarm then walk behind the plant where you should find an entrance. Punch the switches on the wall to switch on the lights in the maze which is on the next screen. Get yourself through the maze (this is pretty easy) and you should find a steam engine. Redirect the steam by touching the right hand switch on the boiler and you can walk through the door to . . .





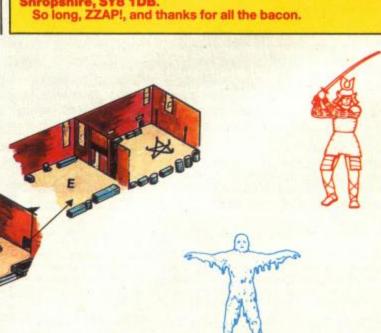
LEVEL 7 - THE FINAL BATTLE

Kill the guard in the first screen, then walk through to the room with the pentacle on the floor. Go over to the tapestry on the wall and lift it up to reveal a safe. Unlock the safe with the combination from the computer in the office and take out the orb. The man himself, Kunitoki, will now

enter the room and you've got to kill him so that he falls somewhere inside the pentacle. Before he regenerates, light the candles on the points of the star and put the orb back in the safe to finish the game. Hoo-ooowee!

Well, that's it. It's time for me to pack my toothbrush and head off into the sunset. This month's top tipsters/cartographers of the month are Wayne Fowler and Tim Haines, and they'll each be receiving a £30 software voucher pretty soon. If you've got some vital piece of energy-conserving, Doberman-inflating, quantity-surveying tips which you want to share with your fellow gamers, stick it in an envelope or on the backside of a postcard and send it to PG's T... oh, er, no, it'll be Maff Evans And His Amazing Technicolour Tips Pages, ZZAP! Towers, PO Box 10, Ludlow, Shropshire, \$Y8 1DB.

So long ZZAP! and thanks for all the bacon.



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AS THEY PLAY IN GERMANY

Who are those people who've provided us with some of the best and worst of software in the past two years? Whose badly translated instructions provide the biggest laughs in the ZZAP! office? What are they going to do next? We investigate the German software companies whose growing Wanderlust has led them to markets abroad.

OVER THE

rom its humble beginnings as a oneperson-show in Gütersloh in 1984, Rainbow Arts has grown into the biggest software publisher in Germany. Since then, the company has expanded vastly,

had been cleverly emulated until one of their executives saw the game on a monitor at a trade show and immediately ordered writs to be served, halting the game's production in Britain and the programming of its sequel Arthur and Martha in Futureworld.

Another of Rainbow Arts' clones, the superb Katakis



A future sport that's for real hardos only (Grand Monster Slam)

now employing 60 programmers who work in teams to produce action and role-playing games and arcade conversions, not just for European markets, but for companies in America and even further afield.

In the UK at least, Rainbow Arts have established a reputation which can only be described as unreliable. Their sub label, Time Warp, for example, produced the staggeringly bad Around the World in 80 Days and Street Gang, but were also behind the excellent Super Mario Brothers clone, Great Giana Sisters. Nintendo were blissfully

Rainbow Arts have put all that behind them now, and are moving into new markets their first foray into the arcades under the auspices of Rainbow Games should show its fruits in early '89. The Dark Chamber - a fantasy shoot 'em

up - is to be followed by a

sports game with a difference

caused an even greater stir in Britain because its gameplay bore such an uncanny similarity to that of Irem's coin-op classic R-Type. Go!'s plans to release the game on 64 and Amiga formats were stopped in their tracks by Mediagenic, who had spent heaps of cash on licensing and converting the original.

1up:00000 2up:00000- Energy:0300

▲ He's laughing at you, you know! (Spherical)

Monster Olympics.

RA have a packed schedule for the home market, too. Coming soon are Spaceball, Danger Freak and Spherical, a game which, from the screenshots we've seen, looks like a souped-up Solomon's Key. There are also plans for another ten arcade games, four role-playing games and rumour has it that there are even a couple of 3D simulations in the pipeline, probably on 16-bit formats.

On the Soft Gold label (previously responsible for software weaklings Jinks and Bad Cat) we should be seeing

two games on the 64 and Amiga programmed by the Golden Goblins team. The Grand Monster Slam is a sports game played by barbarians, who make their money by kicking small furry creatures down playing fields. Circus Attractions lets you master the skills of the knife thrower, the highest of high divers, the tightest of rope walkers, a mad trampolinist and a guerilla

Meanwhile, Time Warp are putting the finishing touches to their volleyball simulator, called The Volleyball Simulator (er . . . yeah), and are currently

▼ The graphics are good, but the gameplay . . . ? Wait and see, when Tom and Jerry gets an airing later this year

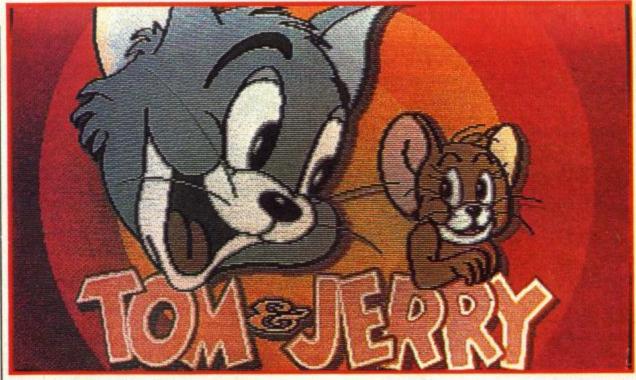


working on the rather more evocatively titled Oxxonian and Winetou (don't know what these are yet a sorry)

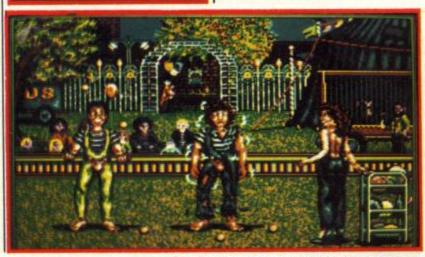
what these are yet – sorry).
Rainbow Arts' other
affiliated label, ReLine, will
soon be ready to release Oil
Empire (a strategy game which
should attract budding
magnates), Hollywood Poker
Pro and Wiow Wizard. Later on
this year, expect to see an
adventure called Legend of
Fairghad.

▼ Cor Blimey! Look at that stereotype terrorist! (Persian Gulf Inferno)

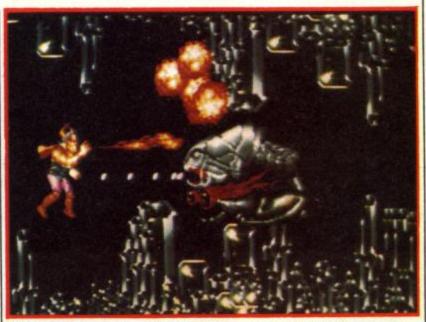




▲ Need we say more?



▲ 'Laydees an' gen'r'men, step rilighd up for Circus Attractions'



He could have cleaned his teeth before snarling at you like that (Dark Chamber)

MAGIC BYTES BACK

robably the nicest thing you can say about Magic Bytes is that they've never been short of ideas. Since the founding of the company in the summer of 1987, they have assailed the sensibilities of British gamers with such mind-bogglingly bad products as Pink Panther, Western Games, Vampire's Empire and the abusive Clever and Smart. By the Summer of 1989, 64 and Amiga owners should be able to see MiniGolf (a Crazy Golf game, as if you didn't know), The Paranoia Complex (an urban arcade adventure set in the future), Nightdawn (planet exploration in a scrolling maze format), Wall Street (a stockbroking simulation), USS John Young (a naval warfare simulation with 3D graphics)

and Persian Gulf Inferno (30

minutes to kill the Arab terrorists, save the VIPs and defuse a nuclear bomb).

Magic Bytes are also on the brink of releasing their licensed game of cartoon faves

➤ Still, that hairdryer is probably more comfortable than an Epilady (Paranoia)

Amiga demo we saw were well Tom and Jerry. The game is planned to include all the up to scratch, but have Magic Bytes managed to put a playfamiliar cartoon features, such able game in there this time? as short cuts through mouseholes, smashing orna-We'll have to wait and see ments, refrigerators, Jerry's appetite and Tom's plans for won't we? Well, some of us will. putting him into a sandwich. There will also be a two player option which allows one player to be Tom and the other to be



| Jerry. The graphics on the

IECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

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MACHINE CODE MONITOR: Best machine code monitor available. Intelligent hardware hides the monitor making it invisible & impossible to detect Use it to learn machine code, a hackers dream due to it revealing any part of memory. Includes all usual monitor commands & morel Add poke/cheats from

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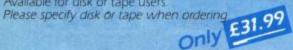
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What is the name of the Ketars' secret weapon in Dark

What is the name of the moon on which Driller is set?

What is the name of the Ancient Egyptian Sun God,

whose pyramid is featured in Total Eclipse?

Side?

Done that? OK, write the answers on the back of an

envelope along with your

If they haven't got here by

Nice aren't we?

February 12th, you won't go.

the whole caboodle to:

name and address and send

I WANNA SEE A TOTAL ECLIPSE COMP ZZAP! TOWERS, PO BOX 10 LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE, SY8 1DB

OK, so you've seen Liverpool play Notts Forest at Anfield, you've seen a couple of American blokes bouncing about on the moon, you've seen Tarby tell a good joke and you've even seen a fire-eating python at the zoo. Er . . . yeah. Tell you what you haven't done though - bet you've never set eyes on a real-life total solar

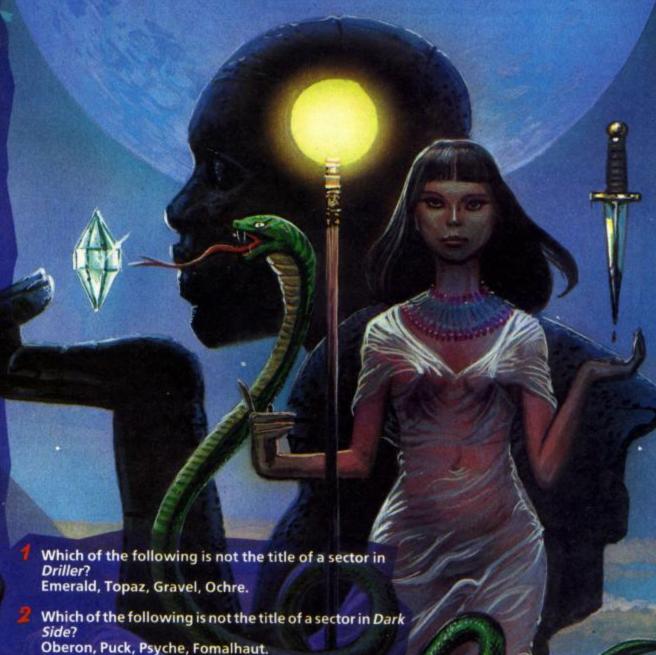
Well, not many people have, actually. Your average lovable, cuddly member of the human race just never gets the chance. For a start it doesn't happen all that often (the next one's in 1990) and when it does you can only see it from certain parts of the world at a

time. Oooh!

Wouldn't you just be the most incredibly jammy, lucky individual, the sort of person everybody can't stand because they have absolutely everything (like Gordo-no, no only joking, ha ha) if you got to the next eclipse yourself? Wouldn't you know (well, OK you would if you've read the title of the comp - there are only so many ways you can write a competition you know, we're not walking brains down here . . . mumble, mumble, mumble), those incredibly fab and triff, trendy and chubby (er ... not chubby really, at all, honest) people at Incentive, producers of Driller, Dark Side and Total Eclipse, are giving you the chance to do just that.

Yup, to celebrate the sizzling success of their own Total Eclipse (see review on page 14), they're giving you the opportunity to win a trip to Finland for two to see the next total eclipse - in 1990. In five fun-filled, froody days, you'll jet to Finland, get to see Helsinki, fly to Joensuu where, from an optimum observation point at the shores of a beautiful lake, you'll get a brilliant view of the total eclipse before returning to Helsinki again. And if you don't think that's worth entering a competition for, you need your head examining - but we won't go into that because we don't want blood all over the office

Right. Here's what you have to do. First, answer the following easy peasy questions.





and nurses' uniforms, and listed amongst his hobbies, 'going to parties and jumping up and down a lot'. A worthy Challenger indeed! But who was he to face? Up





▲ Our hopeful Challenger, Stuart
'Oswald' Scattergood (Eh?)
waggles his joystick a bit for the
camera

stepped the first ever female reviewer at ZZAP! Towers: Kati 'nygaaah waaagh' Hamza, a creature of reduced brain power, chronic physical debilities and bodily features dissimilar to those of the other reviewers – something which I have always found puzzling amongst humans. There are those who may mock the existence of a girly Challenger – particularly one with such basic psychological hindrances – but ZZAP! reviewers are made of stern mettle (well, all excepting the parping puerile pulp-man, Paul Glancey), and no Challenger finds things easy on a long visit to Ludlow...



▲ As a relaxation from *Tetris*, the two opponents partake in a vicious and violent fish-catching game



▲ The ugly mugs and their pets celebrate the Hamza-creature's ignoble victory

The opposed high scores at Tetris painted a pleasing picture: Stuart's Top Score was an epic 79,420, whereas the uncoordinated Hamza-creature's best was a mere 18,980: I looked forward to a victory not tasted since the defeat of the scrawny tipster back in Issue 43.

It was agreed amongst those present that the Challenge would take place over three rounds of 5 minutes each, the player with the top score after that time being adjudged the victor. After a particularly rowdy night of jigging and slobbering, one of the 64s and its monitor had been belted senseless by the ZZAP! team, so the Challengers took turns on the only

Challengers took turns on the only surviving machine in the Towers.

First off was Stuart. He'd been made to wait all morning by the conspiring chumps, filling his time by playing games and laughing nervously when Fat Git Houghton wandered anywhere near him. During lunchtime, he was forcefed pizza and gateau at a local sleaze-bar, so that by the afternoon he was well and truly intimidated, obliging me to down a Vim 'n' Dom cocktail to quell my mounting anger.

After a nervous start during which he treated the joystick like a wild dog with advanced rabies, he downed his blocks with the best of them, reaching a comfortable score of 2,248, completing 45 lines. An equally troubled Hamza managed to extend her claws around her favourite Euromax and press the fire button to start – beyond that her coordination was miraculous for one of such paltry quantities of grey matter. At the halfway stage, she had attained a score of 1,240 – 180 more than Stuart – and my circuits began to buzz with a sensation which equates to your human nausea. By

beverages in Ursa Minor. By half way he was well ahead of his previous effort, and at the end of the allotted period, he totalled 2,630 points and 50 lines. A slight disappointment-but I was convinced that a gaunt leted cuff around the ears of the Hamza-thing would do the trick.

Nonetheless, with rising arrogance, the scrawny feminine creature launched into a flurry of shape-twirling activity, creating a repulsive pattern of sick-coloured shapes, piling on the points like the mad woman she is. Dismay struck again! By the end of five minutes, she had acquired a substantial 3,258 points, and another 59 lines — aaaaargh! I drowned my sorrows in a few snorts of Flash Old Peculiar.

The Challenge was effectively over, but the third game took place anyway. Stuart excelled himself in attaining the highest score of the day – 3,459 points (63 lines) – and managed to defeat the Strange One, whose final total was merely 9 points behind: 3,450 (61 lines).

It was not enough to spare my misery. I despatched the pathetic Flint-based creature back home, his arms piled high with a £30 software voucher, a free T-shirt and cap, and some free games thrown in to boot; as for me – I had to endure the misery of mocking from creatures with an IQ of sub-100. A few skillfully-placed electrodes



As punishment, Stuart faces the full brunt of the Girly-One's hardest magic . . .

the end of the five minutes she had attained a huge 3,116 - 59 lines' worth of despair and misery for me...

In a fit of rage, I ordered the second tournament to take place immediately. This time Stuart was more confident – his pique raised by the humiliation of defeat – and he launched into line after line of glorious colour, an effect not dissimilar to that achieved by certain

resolved that situation - but, be warned, it had better not happen again!

and ends up attracting flies for a living



I am read	y, willing	and me	ntally s	table	enough	to
defeat G	ordon 'F	at Man	' Hous	hton	at eith	er
SPEEDBA	LL (Am	iga) c	r EN	ILYN	HUGH	ES
INTERNAT	TIONAL SO	OCCER (6	4):			
			/-			

MY BEST SCORE IS (Emlyn Hughes)



ALIEN SYNDROME (Ace) 223,610 D Ernmins, Stratford, London E15 148,200 John Flower, Victoria, Australia 134,300 Mike Thomas, Caerphilly, Mid Glam

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Sussex 166,370 Edward JD Jackson, Leeds, W Yorks 154,400 Michael Garnett, Hatfield, Herts

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Yorks 92,128,800 Mark Crossthwaite, Stockport, Cheshire 87,720,606 Julian Hare, Hampton, Middx

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(Microprose)
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22,790 Jonathan Perkes, Woodford Green, tssex 14,280 Gary Williams, Plumstead, London

OUEDEX (Thalamus) 1010 Craig Archer, Victoria, Australia 999 Steve Pratt, Leighton Buzzard, Beds 999 Anthony Melarangi, Runcorn, Cheshire

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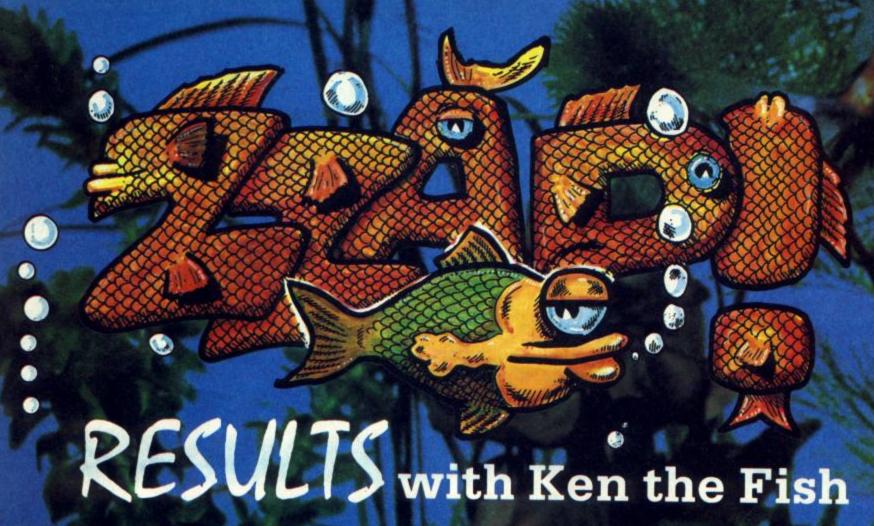


HANDLE WITH -CARE-

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A LEGEND IN GAMES SOFTWARE



New years mean resolutions, and I've made quite a few fish-related ones. For a start, I'm going to make sure that those warm-blooded, land-dwelling dry-skins in ZZAP! clean out my tank regularly: there's nothing more embarrassing when you've got guests round than having little orange sausages floating right next to the ants' eggs.

next to the ants' eggs.
Secondly, I've decided (for health reasons) to cut down on the amount of mass-produced 'flaky' fish food I consume. The

amount of additives this contains is, frankly, shocking – and I would recommend it in no way to any fish. Pure, unabused plankton is the only food for me.

Right, on with the results. This month I've used my megastar status to bring you the winners from Issue 44. A quick 'gloop gloop' and a wave of my tail charmed the office long enough for me to steal the results from under their noses. Fools.



A new section this, but one I've considered necessary for quite some time. It's just a little game between you and me – an exchange of bodily fluids, if you will. I show you the silhouette (as below) of a well-known fish, together with some vital information about that particular aquatic vertebrate. All you've got to do is guess the identity (answer at the foot of the opposite page). No cheating now!

This month's mystery guest is a great friend of mine. He loves the North Atlantic, preferring undersea areas of soft or sandy ground. Smooth, small scales and a spattering of orange spots cover his body, and a ridge of bony nodules grace his head, behind the eyes. Tops in the food stakes for our anonymous friend are worms, small crustaceans and molluscs; he prefers those species with opening shells, mussels being especially popular.



ASSAULT ENCORE

Those fish-flavoured Elite creatures, purveyors of the finest Gold Flake in the computer industry, offered 10 people the chance to have a fish-free day out at an army assault course. As well

as this aqueous activity, the winners also received an Elite mug, T-shirt and copies of the eight Encore titles so far. The lucky baskers were:

Paul Devlin, Leigh WN7 1TS; Christopher Harvey, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9JD; Kayur Patel, Leicester LE4 6RD; John Hammond, Sutton Coldfield B76 8NT; Seamus Slater, Shoeburyness SS3 9AB; Andrew Price, Stourbridge DY8 3YL; William Verrier, Essex CO7 0AL; Andrew Sobryan, Isleworth TW7 5HX; Jamie Basselt, Stanford-le-Hope SS17 7HD; Kevin Hartshorn, Bideford EX39 4DB.

Ten runners up in this shark-infested competition received the whole Encore range. A big fin, if you will, for:

Stuart Price, Fife KY8 5BX; Samee Khan, Ilford IG3 9LY; Nicholas Beedham, Todmorden Ol14 8JL; Yasser Ali, Pakistan; Bradley Stew, Coventry CV7 9GJ; Sean Fothergill, Rotherham S63 9NW; Stephen Moore, Suffolk CB9 0NF; Neil Hudson, Cheshire CW4 7NS; Colm McFadden, Co. Donegal Ireland; Paul Ramsey, Luton LU2 7AF.

MUNCHER CHEWIT OR ELSE

Does the Loch Ness monster exist? I can state quite categorically that I have an acquaintance (Mad Angus McTurbot) who regularly swims the Caledonian Canal's many Lochs and locks, and he has heard tell of Nessie's existence

from close friends. He's probably lying. Anyway, a monster of a different kind was the subject of this competition, the 10 winners of which were provided with a year's supply of Chewits (365 packets):

Neil Stewart, Glasgow G41 4DF; Jamie Gill, Hexham NE46 1YA; Marc Blackie, London SE4 2AJ; Stuart Murphy, Chelsford CM2 7EJ; Michael Tinsley, Dublin 12; Christian Lett, Lichfield WS13 7DR; Allan Davies, Malvern WR13 5DN; Keith Rowland, Brighton BN1 7JF; R Coumans, The Netherlands; Marcos Moret, London N20 OUE.

ELECTRA'S MONSTROUS COMPETITION

Where do Electra come in the fishloving stakes? It's a mystery to me – they've never openly stated their policy towards fish-kind. However, they were generous enough to offer a free T-shirt and a copy of Better Dead Than A Ling to 10 readers, so they must have tendencies towards certain aquatic species. Anyway, the undersea people who'll be giving gifts to their goldfish tonight are:

Sam Trafford, Scarborough YO13 9HU; Thomas McCeery, Cumbernauld G67 47E; Cai Ros, Gwynedd N. Wales; Mark Robson, Sunderland SR6 9LJ; Anshu Asthana, Stalybridge SK15 2UH; Paul Maund, Southsea PO5 4DR; Zaid Qureshi, Middlesex TW3 4BP; Chetan Vadher, Wembley HA9 6BN; Andrew Erskine, Reading RG1 6ER; Jarnail Bhangal, Coventry CV2 4LF.

Do aliens keep pet fish, I wonder? – this is a question which deserves further consideration. In the meantime, 10 piscatorial runners up received a T-Shirt:

David Walker, Boston PE22 7PQ; Mark Goble, Kent ME1 3RJ; Peter James, M. Glamorgan CF38 1HG; Scott Bethell, Little Hampton BN17 7NN; Paul Fagan, Iver Heath SIO 0PH; Mark Philotts, Pemford RM3 OYT; Neil Burt, Dorset DT6 4AT; David Exton, Stafford ST16 3SG; Andrew Kettewell, Fareham PO14 2NG; Duncan Scott, Peterborough PE6 8JU.

MAR, TECH A LOOK AT THIS CHRISTMAS STOCKING

A handy tip for fish-owners everywhere: NEVER EVER introduce an electric fire into your fish's underwater environment. I know you're probably only trying to be kind, but please take note of this advice—it's a subject very close to my heart. We're cold-blooded creatures, so we don't require heat in the way that you upright mammals do.

Back at the Towers, the winner of this Christmas cracker of a comp received a stocking, including a Kodak 3000 disc camera, a selection of games books, T-shirt, a couple of trout and a canister of water-purification tablets. He was, in reverse order:

Richard Smith, Middlesex HA7 1LJ

50 Lumpsucker-liking runners up received a stocking full of anchovy-flavoured choccies, and a previously released Martech game:

Gavin Black, South Shields NE34 9JN; David Exton, Stafford ST16 3SG; Anthony Micallet, Swindon SN3 5EQ; Peter James, Tonteg CF38 1HG; Michael Burke, Skem, Lancs; Neil Bache, Stourbridge DY8 3YH; Ian Warwick, Aldershot GU11 1PR; Glen Whiteheart, Sunderland SR4 0RT; Derek Fullerton, Edinburgh EH12 5RJ; Jason Howdon, Nr Chester CH4 8SG; Mark Steel, Rotherham S60 4BZ; Damon Smith, Watford WD2 6LE; Grant Adams, London SE25 6NJ; Samee Khan, Ilford IG3 1DB; Michael Jones, Birmingham B32 1NA; Nigel Manning, Leicester LE6 3RT; Paul Henton, Nottingham NG6 0FP; Stuart Price, Fife KY8 5BX; Chris Marples, Eccleston PR7 5QS; Pat Fegan, Co. Down BT3 56DT; Karl Drinkwater, Manchester M32 9TA; Christian Lett, Lichfield WS13 7OR; Kevin Clarke, Winsford CW7 3DY; Ian Chase, Thetford IP24 1EH; Steven Morris, Stoke-on-Trent ST8 7AU; Kieron Murray, Co. Kilkenny Eire; Jason Fowler, Norwich; Jamie Gill, Northumberland NE46 1YA; Daniel Bourner, Nr Peterborough PE6 8NZ; Louise Hudson, Cheshire CW4 7NS; Daniel Taylor, Orpington BR6 9DS; P S Rogerson, Preston PR5 4RU; S J Livesey, Gibraltar; Bjorn Heinzinger, Co. Tipperary; Bradley Stew, Coventry CV7 9GT; Gavin Wiseman, Hamilton ML3 9BG; Ian Flynn, Dundee DD4 0LL; Tony Ashfield, Crawley RH10 1PQ; Christopher Ray, Newport NP1 0AY; Simon Bull, Oxon OX16 9DX; Steven Ledsham, Runcorn WA7 6AA; Mark Hanson, Tyne & Wear SR4 0RT; Dean Smith, Busey Heath WD2 3RB; Kevin Large, Burton-upon-Trent; Gavin Dixon, Northumberland NE49 9DD; Andrew Sobryan, Isleworth TW7 5HX; Jarnail Bhangal, Stoke CV2 4LF; Guy Clark, Stockport SK1 2QL; Andrew Wooller, Eastbourne BN23 6JT; Robert Davis, Bristol BS15 2UX.

WIN ARMALOOT

Do fish have a Thalamus? The first person who can inform me of the truth or otherwise of this fact will receive an autographed picture of yours truly — a fine prize indeed! A Thalamus of a different kind was dishing out the original artwork of the *Armalyte* cover and ad (signed by Oli Frey), plus a copy of that

mega-blasting game itself, Armalyte:

Gary Privett, Kent BR5 4LN.

Five further purveyors of perverse piscine pleasure were to receive a Lazer Tag gun and sensor set plus a copy of the game:

Carl Schmid, Perth PH2 OLD; Kasra Farhadpour, Guilford GU4 7LR; Jonathan Wareham, Mickleover DE3 5EG; Tony Paraskeva, London N8 9RY; Gavin Carr, Glasgow G69 6ER; Charlton Davis, Surrey KT5 9PT.

BLOOD AND GUTS

This is a sore subject, but have you ever tried gutting a fish? If you must do it, the best way is to do it quickly – causing as little pain as possible to the fish concerned. Better still, stick to eating vegetables or plankton, like us.

Meanwhile, back in Issue 44, The Games Workshop (when are we going to get a Fish RPG?) doled out to 20 American Fishball lovers a blister pack of *Blood Bowl* miniatures plus a copy of the game:

Tommy Bowker, Carrbridge PH23 3ND; Neal Todd, Warminster BA12 9QU; Christopher McAleer, Glasgow G73 3QY; Stuart Hamilton, Stone ST15 0DQ; R Nithi, Surrey KT4 7LG; Chris Farmer, Newark NG24 3TW; Don Woods, Co. Leitrim; Kevin Murphy, Kirkcaldy KY1 1PX; Mark Smith, Broxbourne EN10 7HD; M Philpotts, Romford RM3 0YT; Andrew Malone, Co. Kildare; G D Benford, Formby L37 1PZ; Christian Grant, Blackpool FY4 2HE; Kristiaan Yorks, Wickford S511 8NA; D Hields, York YO3 7TU; Darren Seryck, Enfield EN2 0DF; Neil Treeby, Brixham TQ5 0LX; Craig Ward, Blackpool FY2 9PU; Greg Newby, Wrexham LL13 0ED; Joe Pepper, Cardiff CF4 8DX.

28 runners up received a blister pack each. Nasty things for fish, blisters. Good thing we don't get them too often:

Colm Andrews, Via Hyde Cheshire; John Pagan, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 2DT; Jeremy Pryce, Welshpool SY2 9HX; William Powell, Halesowen; Garry Clark, Manchester M9 1JB; Robert Oliver, Hove BN3 8AF; S Stribling, Wickford SS1 8QX; Keith Hetherington, Newtownards BT23 4RT; Christopher Madden, Caherdavin; Paul Rudge, Warrington WA5 3BW; Steven Ledsham, Runcorn WA7 6AA; Colin Smith, Bishops Stortford CM23 2DB; Jon Simcoe, Kettering NN16 9RN; Keith Bartlett, Poole BH12 3NE; Darryl Hulme, Barnsley S71 2JB; Julie Bryant, Sussex RH12 4RN. Andrew Cugan, Co. Wicklow; David Brown, Waltham DN37 0LA; Sandra Deex, Widnes WA8 9XT; Michael Hefferan, Reading RG6 1QE; Matthew Deighton, Morecambe LA3 3AH; Matthew Campbell, Belfast BT14 6LX. Richard Hoare, Surrey RH1 2DS; Ben Carliss, Nr Rugby CV23 8PL; David Exton, Stafford ST16 3SG; Andy Hodgkins, Solihull B91 3NE; Andrew Huntley, Consett DH8 0PP; Anthony Bland, Wallsend NE28 6QQ.

STICK WITH KONIX

If we had hands, we'd probably enjoy fiddling about with that new Navigator joystick. Unfortunately we don't – there's a special kind of interface which we fish use in order to play computer games, the exact specifications of

which I won't reveal at this point. However, it's not manufactured by Konix, the sponsors of this competition in which 10 winners received human-orientated Navigator joysticks:

Stuart Boston, Stafford ST20 0AE; Stewart Campion, Stevenage SG2 9RB; Daniel Hallam, London E11 4PZ; Mark Watkins, Amersham HP7 9BB; Ben Wheeler, Alton GU34 2SF; Robert Gordon, Portsmouth PO6 2QL; Paula Worden, Darwen, Lancashire; Grant Mundy, Milton Keynes MK11 1HE; Christian Ainsley, Birkenhead L43 5RY; Colin Bennett, Burton-on-Trent DE15 9OB:

Five equally dextral vertically-spined earth-walkers received a Predator joystick:

Dominic Hardiman, Penarth CF6 2EF; James Witney, Horncastle LN9 6AA; Stephen Donald, Cumbernauld G67 2LU; Amarjit Davies, Glasgow G20 7AA; JA Batchelor, Avon BS20 9TR;

The next five land-lovers received a Megablaster Joystick:

Graham Underhay, Sheffield S6 4ND; Paul Parker, Darwen BB3 0JB; Chris Mills, Hull HU5 3JU; Jonathan Barnett, Middlesbrough TS6 8DP; Joel Morgan, Coventry CV1 3G13.

CHART WINNERS

And finally, this month, our new chart winner is Paul Gallagher from Bromley, Kent: he will receive £40 worth of software of his choice, and a ZZAP! T-Shirt. Lucky land-walker. The four runners up to receive ZZAP! T-

Shirts and Caps are:

Mark Luscombe, Plymouth, Devon. Paul Allison, Selby, N.Yorks. Ian Manning, Kings Lynn, Norfolk. Darren Rampling, Stanford-Le-Hope, Essex.

Well, that about FINishes it for this month (sorry about that crappy pun—it won't happen again). Any complaints and, quite honestly, you can get lost. No, only kidding—if you've got any queries about comps past or present, or you'd just like to say hello to me, I can be contacted at the usual Atlantine address: Ken The Fish, c/o Viv Vickress, ZZAP!, PO Box 10, LUDLOW, Shropshire, SY8 1DB—I'll do my best to aid you in your underwater hour of need.

Till next month, then. Gloop gloop!

OUR MYSTERY GUEST WAS: Mr Plaice: Did you get it right?

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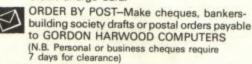
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ife is good. You're young, you've recently passed your pilot's exams and you've just been supplied with the very latest Cobra Mk III combat/trader craft. Life is good.

Life is good.
You reported to the launch station on the planet Lave early this morning, ready to catch the first shuttle up to the Coriolis station to collect your papers and ship. A quick signature and you're issued with your trade permit, flight pass and 100cr in-service pay. Trading is your main objective—but will you trade legally or illegally? For the latter the risks are high but the



Phew! That was close! Next time around you'd be better despatching him with a heat-seeking missile

This has all the addictive qualities and all the depth that you could ever want from a game. When you first pick it up and begin to play, the complexity and range of control options are overwhelming – and it may put a few people off (those of you who haven't played the 8-bit versions). However, once you've accustomed yourself to the controls, cruised around a couple of planets, got involved in some dogfights and bought your first extra weapon – well, there's just no going back! Visually, it's dead good: little graphical touches such as the extra ships you find already docked in the space station all add to the atmosphere . . . The sound effects are similarly ace, if a bit sparse, but that's in no way a criticism: even the silence adds to a sense of loneliness in travelling the vastness of space. I don't think we could have asked more of this classic conversion: it's simply superb.



View indicator



Front shield indicator

Aft shield indicator

Fuel level

Cabin temperature

Laser temperature

Altimeter

Missile indicator (red – armed)



Scanner (long and short range)

Compass



I've been looking forward to this for a long time – well, a few months at any rate – and it was well worth the wait! The Amiga version of Elite is absolutely incredible! I thought it would be a long time until we saw a 3D game to match the standard of Starglider 2 but it has appeared as soon as this. Hooray! The 3D graphics are incredibly fast and smooth, looking more like real solid objects rather than a computer simulation of 3D shapes – and, surprisingly enough, the 3D seems actually faster than the ST version. The sound adds loads of atmosphere to the game using the stereo sound to full effect (play the game with the sound through a set of headphones and you'll soon see what I mean). Elite is without a doubt the best space game ever. If you miss this you're a lemon.

rewards great – and big rewards mean better weapons and a bigger ship You slide into the pilot's chair and hit the Power Up key. The cockpit lights up in shades of green and blue and the monitor flicks up a status screen. You key into the market system and load up with textiles — a commodity which will hopefully not attract too

much attention from the pirates. After keying in a course and launching from the station you go for it. You kick in the Hyperdrive...

Your choice of system for a first flight wasn't exactly first class, however – you appear to have dropped into the middle of a dogfight. A lone Cobra Mk I is



Pick a product – any product. But choose carefully: trading is a risky business and the value of commodities can rise as well as fall...



COBRA Mk III COMBAT/TRADER CRAFT

DIMENSIONS: 65x30x130ft CARGO CAPACITY: 20 TC

ARMAMENTS: Ingram laser system c/w Lance and

Ferman Seek and Kill missiles MAXIMUM VELOCITY: 0.30

INSERVICE DATE: 3100 AD cons. by Cowell and

McGrath Shipyards, Lave MANOEUVRABILITY: CF 8

CREW: 1 or 2

DRIVE: Kruger 'Lightfast' motors and Irrikan

ThruSpace drive

HULL STRESS FACTOR: T Ji 18 - C-Holding M18

HYPERSPACE: Yes

GALACTIC HYPERSPACE: Optional

Speedometer

Roll indicator

Dive/climb indicator

Shield level

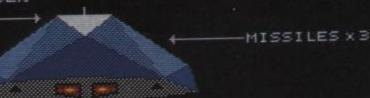
Evocative individual graphics are typical of the near-flawless presentation of the whole game

But in Elite there are 8 galaxies, with over 250 recognised planets in each galaxy. So massive a universe contains very little that is completely predictable.

JAMESON COMMANDER LAWE STEM: DOCKED CLEAN

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> LASER PULSE



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struggling to escape from a rather nasty Mamba class fighter.

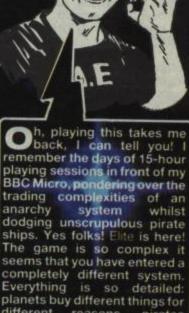
'Obviously a pirate,' you think to yourself as you line up your crosshairs on his back. Just as you loose off a few streams of laser fire. the pirate notices you and loops back to face you. Quickly jamming a few buttons releases a missile towards the Mamba and he soon erupts in a flash of wreckage and

But the Mamba wasn't alone the rest of his squad are bearing in on you, hammening shots into your The Cobra has gone, leaving



ERICES INVENTORY STATUS DISK SAND COME OR FORE

▼ Just the planet for all you gamblers out there



trading complexities of an anarchy dodging unscrupulous pirate ships. Yes folks! Elite is here! The game is so complex it seems that you have entered a completely different system. Everything is so detailed: planets buy different things for different reasons, pirates carry the cargo that they would have bought in the nearest station and every piece of equipment has a make and trade history. Once you start getting into the game you find yourself learning all the makes! All the refinements that have been made since the 8-bit versions mean that the original trade and combat game has lost none of it's appeal. It's even better than - and coming from me that's saying something! Buy it as soon as you see it.

PRESENTATION 99%

Virtually faultless with choice of controls, detail packed manual, single load . . . There must be something wrong somewhere, but we can't find it!

GRAPHICS 92%

Superfast and smooth 3D, but the colours could be slightly less garish.

SOUND 90%

Peaceful rendition of The Blue Danube – remember that from 2001? - set against powerful and atmospheric sound effects.

HOOKABILITY 89%

The complexity of the game draws you in but it also gives you a lot to learn.

LASTABILITY 96%

With this kind of depth, it's immensely playable for a very long time.

OVERALL 98%

With products like this, Rainbird are rapidly becoming the best 16-bit software house around. Even at £24.95, don't hesitate to buy Elite!



he year is 2050. Laws have been revamped, reintroduced and then abandoned. Safety laws governing race sports have changed drastically, resulting in fiercer, more deadly competitions taking place for the crowds' enjoyment.



didn't think much of Road Blasters, I didn't think much of Fire And Forget and

I've got an even lower opinion of Offshore Warrior, which is really just Fire And Forget with a bit of water thrown in. Maybe some people (like one in a hundred thousand, maybe) get a kick out of appalling 3D graphics, boring gameplay and no challenge whatsoever – well, good luck to them because I certainly don't. If I'd spent 25 quid on this, I'd be dead disappointed - what a waste!

Surviving Offshore speed-rac-ers become cult heroes and role models for adventurous young people across the world. As a result, more people take up the sport, hoping to compete in the ultimate across-the-world Offshore Warrior trials.

Events are similar to normal power boat trials, except there's the added danger of boats armed with rocket launchers - a subtle attempt to increase their chances by thinning out the field.



Yeeeuch! Fire and Forget takes to the water!

There are two basic rules for sur-

Don't finish last to continue.

Try to stay alive.





What a con! Shuffling around a few routines from a previous game and changing the graphics is not exactly fair to the game playing public, is it? It seems that this is all that Titus have done – messing about with Fire and Forget to produce Offshore Warrior. The 3D effect is very similar, with the sprites having a cardboard cutout quality to them, and the gameplay is pretty much the same as well. Well that's not quite fair – Fire and Forget, which wasn't exactly brilliant, had a lot more to it! Offshore is rather easy to complete too, making the long term appeal quite limited. Another complete too, making the long term appeal quite limited. Another poor 3D game from Titus. When are we going to see something

PRESENTATION 59% Nice intro screens but slow load-ing and no options.

GRAPHICS 51% Nicely defined sprites still look a little 'flat'

SOUND 72%The soulful title tune is let down by sub-standard effects.

HOOKABILITY 60%

You're initially encouraged by how easy the game is to play . . LASTABILITY 39% . . . but it's too easy to com-

OVERALL 31% Another 3D weakling.

Loriciels, £19.99 disk

he year is 2132. There's been a sharp increase in population (causing overcrowding) and with little to excite the populace, a general lack of vitality. A solution? Easy: increase the risk factor in the popular sport

of motor racing. Obvious, really.
Participants race their hovercycles over a winding track, dodg-

ing marker posts (don't collide with them or you'll do yourself an injury), avoiding mines and planting the odd energy bomb up your opponents' tailpipes.

You can practise on one of three systems or go for the championship option: all the practice levels plus several more difficult tracks.

Hmmm! Looks suspiciously like the ST version this. All the programmers have done is use the Amiga's

M.E

All the programmers have done is use the Amiga's power to generate nicer backdrops and intro screens. Where's the extra sprite shading? The smoother hills? The improved sound? Left out, that's where. At the end of the first three tracks of Championship mode, the screen informs you that this was just a practice and you now have to race for your life, only to return you to level one with no apparent changes. Three levels for 20quid? That's just not on. If you really want this type of game, then wait for it to appear on the bargain shelves.



can't say I'd trade in a year's supply of Mars bars for a game as mediocre as

this. For a start, it doesn't taste as nice and there isn't more than a week's gameplay (at the outside) in three fairly uneventful levels. Clever move that, making it sound like there's a really big selection of championship levels when, in fact, all you seem to get are the first three over and over again. Dead clever. Still, what there is of the gameplay is quite enjoyable and if you're a really hard race-ace, not too bothered about making the most of the Amiga's graphic capabilities and just happen to have 20 quid to spare, why not? Just don't expect too much...

PRESENTATION 64%

retty intermission and title screens but a poor control

GRAPHICS 69%

Effective backgrounds and adequate sprites only just make up for the rather ineffective 3D.

SOUND 48%

A tinny title tune, three sampled effects and a feeble drone that plays throughout.

HOOKABILITY 59%

The control method is overly confusing, making your first few goes frustrating.

LASTABILITY 63%

There is some fun to be had for a short while ... until you com-plete the three different tracks.

OVERALL 51%

A disappointingly average 3D racing game priced well out of its

▼ Yyyyyyaaaawn! Anyone fancy another game? No – me neither





Hewson, £19.95 disk

ayhem! Murder! Mas-sacre! Aaaargh! Right, now that I've got that out of my system I'll carry on . . . Eliminator is a game based on high speed destruction (hence the outburst at the beginning of the review), taking place in a strange (wooeeeooo an' all that) dimension.

You are the Eliminator machine encircled by death, that kills but cannot be killed'. Well, strictly speaking, that isn't quite true. There are things that can kill you. You must race your strange craft along a series of 3D raceways. Strewn along the track are various obstacles, each of which require a different tactic to overcome.



▲ O deer, aa tunnil iz cumin uup (c/o Hatstand Captions)

G.H

It would be a hard decision-choosbetween ing Eliminator and a hundred-weight

of doughnuts, I mean - but in the end Eliminator would probably win. If you've been waiting around for a really outstanding race 'n' blast game with excellent 3D graphics and brilliant fast action gameplay, look no further, because this is it. If you liked Trailblazer and Cosmic Causeway on the 64, you'll love this 'cos it manages to mould the best elements of both of them into something even better. The sound may not be up to all that much but the pass-word system and all that zooming around like a penguin with his pants on fire (eh?) definitely makes up for it. If you fancy adding a neat little 3D shoot 'em up to your software collection, rush out and get this now.

way, and can be killed using your weapons.

WALLS block sections of the raceway and must be dodged.

FLAMES span the width of the track and must be jumped via .

RAMPS can send you over flames or onto the roof (if there is one).

TARGETS must be shot to pass them.

Also along the track are hovering

shapes: either a blue pyramid or an orange block. The blue blocks furnish you with an extra weapon (see WEAPONS box) and the orange blocks top up diminishing ammo supply. up your

Collision with enemy fire decreases your shield and a collision with an enemy or piece of landscape causes instant death.





Yeeha! Zip your flying jacket, leap into your streamlined Eliminator

get ready to rip up the road. The 3D is much more realistic, fast-moving and exciting than something like Fire and Forget (snigger, snigger) - OK, so the aim of the game isn't quite the same; but boy, do those graphics shift. Talk about exhilarating! OK: it's really, really exhilarating. Even better than that (is this possible?), the tracks are brilliantly put together; there's so much to together; there's so much to think about at any one time, that when you do head splat into the nearest wall, you just can't wait to try the course again. If you haven't already rushed out to get your copy, grab your coat, sprint down to your nearest friendly software dealer and GET HOLD OF ONE. This is one race-cum-shoot 'em up you can't afford to miss!

weapons SINGLE-FIRE CANNON

DUAL-FIRE CANNON SIDE-FIRE CANNON

BOUNCING BOMBS

DOUBLE-FIRE CANNON

TRIPLE-FIRE CANNON



This game reminds me of Trailblazer. Not that this is

This game reminds me of Trailblazer. Not that this is a bad thing, as I thought that Trailblazer was brilliant. Eliminator has a few extras though, and they change the gameplay quite drastically. Instead of just steering and leaping, there's a whole lot of frenetic blasting to contend with as well. The 3D is very effective, zooming convincingly out of the distance, and the sprites are nicely coloured and detailed. In fact, the whole thing looks extremely polished. The gameplay is every bit as fast as the graphics, which means that you'll require very quick reactions to get through the levels. The only thing I'm disappointed with is the sound, which is rather weak. Still, that's no reason to ignore an extremely well presented, fast and dead playable blast.

▼ More aliens than you can eat – even at Christmas! (ZZAP! Towers coverline in-joke)



PRESENTATION 91%

Smooth control, clear layout and an extremely useful password

GRAPHICS 90%

Convincing 3D, excellent sprites and good use of colour go to make a very pretty game indeed. SOUND 58%

The average effects and somewhat annoying tunes seem very out of place

HOOKABILITY 92%

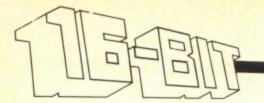
The speed and excitement make it a joy to play from the first game.

LASTABILITY 88%

The levels are rather similar but it's still very playable.

OVERALL 89%

A thoroughly good speedy blast. If only the sound was better . . .





Microdeal, £19.95 disk

t's Saturday afternoon and crowds of two-legged mam-mals are thronging the terraces to watch 22 hairy legs converge on a leather bladder. Football, eh? Fantastic!

Up to four players can take part simultaneously (using a special adaptor - from Microdeal, surprise surprise) footballing against each other or the computer. Having

decided on match and weather conditions, the players run on to

the pitch.
Moves include kicking, tackling and heading. Throw-ins, corners, goalkicks and penalties awarded by the referee.

'And that's about it, isn't it Greavsie?'

Yeah - until ther next time,



I haven't laughed so much at a football game in

G.H

I haven't laughed so much at a football game in ages. The players wobble about like those 50km walkers you see staggering into the arena at the Olympics. Maybe they've all caught some terrible joint-wasting disease. Either that or they come from Flint (ho ho). Er . . . that's great if you've got 20 quid to spare just for a laugh: if you're actually after a football game, you've had it. The controls are so awkward you never really feel in charge of your team and there's no real scope for developing any soccer skills. Unless you're a masochist, give this a miss.



Kick balls in one of the more basic soccer sims around - when's Emlyn Hughes going to appear on the Amiga?



I wonder if Microdeal have seen Microprose

cer and Emlyn Hughes yet - if they have, I bet they're going really red. International S on the Amiga, is pretty pathetic compared to both those excellent 64 footy games. I could put up with the really badly drawn menus and the absence of the kind of league and world cup draw entiage. and world cup draw options that make Emlyn and Microsoccer so good, as long as the actual gameplay was something to write home about. It's not. None of the controls are obvious, it's a real pain switching players and most of the time you have so little influence on the team you might as well be watching a demo.

PRESENTATION 72%

Up to four simultaneous players, nine computer skill levels plus options to change conditions and length of match. Extremely awkward control method.

GRAPHICS 50%

Contortionist footballers plus uninteresting cheering crowds.

SOUND 45%

Choice of three supermarketstyle background tunes and a few squirty effects.
HOOKABILITY 49%

Nothing's obvious – so it takes a while to work the controls out.

LASTABILITY 30%

The two-player options might keep you going, but not for very long.

OVERALL 45%

If you're after a top-class footy sim, this isn't it.

Grandslam, £19.95 disk

Il you would be spies out there get your black hat and . . . hold on, I've seen this somewhere before (That's because you wrote it in the 64



Having played this after the pretty weak 64 conversion of

Espionage, I can better assess the improvements. The speed of the game has been increased, so you're not left hanging around waiting for your go, and the whole thing is clearer and easier to understand. Another point is that you can work out the likely strategies of the computer player (not that they always do what you expect). I still don't see a great deal of point in putting a board game onto a computer if the single player mode isn't very good – and for this reason (as well as the extra cost) the Amiga version doesn't score as highly as it might.

review, Maff - Ed). Oh, yeah, that's it. Oh, well all there is to say is that the Amiga version of Espionage has just about the same sort of plot as the 64 version, really. So if you



After listening to Maff and Gordo moaning about the 64 version of Espionage I thought, 'It can't be that bad'; unfortunately, it is. The Amiga version is certainly an improvement, with speedier gameplay, better appearance and jazzed up music (no sound effects, though), but it's still not all that it should have been. If a

board game is to work on a computer, then it has to go overboard with the presentation or alter the gameplay totally. Unfortunately, Grandslam have done neither. Sorry, guys, but it's not quite there.

▼ Hmmm . . . haven't we seen this earlier in the mag?



want to find out more information about the game then you'd better flip back to page 16.

Well then, what are we going to do with the rest of this page then? Anyone know any good spy jokes? Oh, here's one . . . there was an Irishman, a nun and a spy and they were in this shed . . . (that's quite enough of that - Ed). Alright then, on with the comments . . .

PRESENTATION 51%

Clear layout and some options, but there should be a lot more glossy wrapping.

GRAPHICS 49%

A fair representation of the Espionage board and symbols, but where are the animation and pictures to liven it up?

SOUND 73%

Great music which plays throughout; no sound effects.

HOOKABILITY 59%

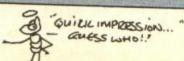
As tricky as any board game initially; once learnt, you'll play for a while.

LASTABILITY 60%

Good fun with friends, but it'll soon get boring in single player

OVERALL 58%

An average board game conversion, but without the necessary Dazazz.



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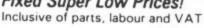
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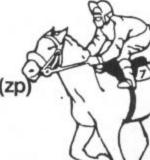
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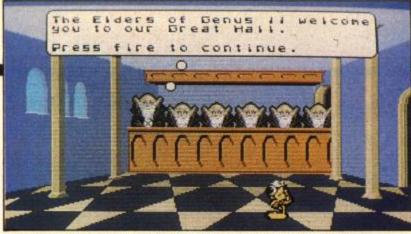
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Domark, £19.95 disk

ell (sob, sob) - the end of the world is nigh. So what are you going to do about it, huh? (Who me?) Yeah, you, the spotty one with the kipper tie who always gets all his homework right.

You're going to travel the galaxy collecting the six artefacts that will give you access to the only remaining planet able to support human life, that's what.

You (and a few mates) take it in turns to travel to planets and answer questions. Get one right and you carry on, fail and the next player gets a go.

Six artefacts in your pocket? Off you go to the planet Genus II and answer one final question. Get that right and you'll be scoffing lasagne when the big bang comes.

Smart guys have no heart .



GH

I really enjoyed playing the C64 A New Beginning but I'm disappointed that the Amiga version of one of my favourite games hardly makes any use of the Amiga's power. The graphics just don't amount to anything worthy of 16-bits and the sound, ite simply, is virtually non-existent. So what, you might say, it doesn't need them – well, no, but £19.95 still seems a bit steep when you can get the superior graphics and gameplay of Powerplay for a few guid more.

guid more.



you glanced at this in passing you'd have a hard job trying to decide

whether it was an Amiga or a 64 game. Obviously it's stupid to look for mega graphics and sound in the conversion of a board-game but I still think they could have jazzed up the presentation with more than a few spinning planets. The gameplay itself is as much fun as it ever was but if you're going cross-eyed wondering whether or not to add it to your collection, take a long look at Powerplay first. For a few quid more, you get a dead challeng-ing trivia game which really exploits the potential of the

PRESENTATION 76%

Up to six competing players and loads of options menus.

GRAPHICS 45%

Nice colours but sprites and backdrops lack detail.

SOUND 29%

Clip-clopping footsteps and a tinny end-of-game jingle.

HOOKABILITY 79%

Easy enough to get into – and you've got to prove your brain-

LASTABILITY 56%

Only for hard-core trivia enthusiasts once the initial enthusiasm has worn off.

OVERALL 52%

ers; slightly better with two or nore players.



argh! Bozon is coming. He's bad, he's mean, he's mad - and he's planning to take over the world. Help! Eek! Oh

Luckily, the Earth has two ironpumping heroes who are so hard they'd jet-pack to the centre of Bozon's domain and destroy it any Firing at the energy pods the enemy leaves behind turns them into different types of weapon (mega-bazooka launcher, gun, 3-way shot, etc).

Oh yeah – a few bonus icons (extra points, shield, improved firepower) are dotted around the environment as well. Cool, huh?

▼ It's brown trousers time as our hunky side-armed hero faces one tough mother alien





What really annoys me about the Side Arms coin-op and the conversion is that every time you just want to move backwards you actually end up turning around – with a bullet in your back. Great! It's even worse in the Amiga conversion because the actual playing area is so cluttered there isn't even enough room for a

two-player option. What on earth is the point of converting a major two-player coin-op into a one-player home game?
Ravin' mad. Side Arms isn't an appalling shoot 'em up in itself on the whole it plays like your average space blast. If that's what you want from a conversion, fine. It's just wasn't enough for me.



OK, so it's a disappointment that this hasn't got a

two-player option, but as a one-player game it's not that bad. Probe haven't exactly exploited the Amiga's potential to the full - the sound's pretty basic, the graphics aren't all that interesting and it would have been nice to have full-screen scrolling - but for some reason the gameplay is actually quite addictive. As long as you're not too bothered by tough gameplay and don't mind about the conversion being absolutely faithful to the coin-op (which it's not), you could have an enjoy-able few hours on your hands. Bit expensive just for a few hours, though.

PRESENTATION 52%

Mouse or joystick control but no two-player option – a major fea-ture of the coin-op.

GRAPHICS 58%

Wide variety of pretty nastylooking aliens but the backdrops leave a lot to be desired.

SOUND 50%

Unexciting music with the odd bleepy sound effect.

HOOKABILITY 75%

The coin-op was pretty good so you've got to have a go at the conversion

LASTABILITY 52%

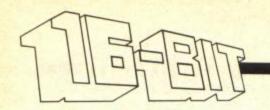
Difficulty and lack of resemblance to the arcade machine might put people off.

OVERALL 53%

A disappointingly average con-









Martech, £19.99 disk

hat kind of a life is it when you can't get into your SuperCobra light attack helicopter and shoot the hell out of anyone who comes your way? No kind of life at all, that's what.

Happily, you're one of the lucky ones. You've got a chopper and

▼ Isn't this Thu-? or Aft-? Nope, it's a poor excuse for a 3D shoot 'em



the enemy's coming. All you need now is a rotary cannon, turbo power (press space to activate) and hellfire missiles set by moving

a circular crosshair over the target. Got those? Off you go then and don't forget your packed

ITS MICHER! JACKSON: (oops!)

Ouf! I feel like I've been rolling around in a wooden barrel – and that's not because I've just had my sixth Double Decker either. I've seen some nasty doses of graphicitis blockius in my time but Hellfire Attack really takes the biscuit. The tops of the trees are just

shaved off where they hit the horizon, and streets of terraced houses lurch endlessly across the screen (bit like Maff on a Saturday night). If the graphics don't put you off, the repetitive gameplay definitely will. One long round of samey 3D firing is hardly enough to merit 20 quid.



If you must play this game (and I strongly advise you not to) make sure you've got a

good supply of travel sickness pills handy because all that shifting and swaying of stumpy graphics is bound to stumpy graphics is bound to make you sick. PacMan would really be at home here: talk about Blocktown – yeuch! Oh, and if you're thinking there might at least be some sort of a game worth playing in there, forget it. I wouldn't want to play this for longer than five minutes, even if it was the only minutes, even if it was the only game in the office on a really grotty day.

managed to evade capture and is

duty bound to set things right. You've got to enter the realm and

release the captured sorcerers,

PRESENTATION 50%

enty of onscreen info and cometent control method - that's

GRAPHICS 40%

ery unsubtle, blocky, lolloping

SOUND 51%

Unremarkable action tune plus uninteresting firing effects.

HOOKABILITY 35%

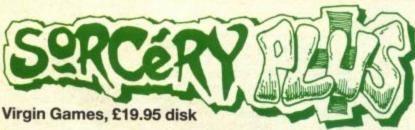
The graphics may put you off pefore you start.

LASTABILITY 21%

After five minutes, the repetitive-ness and the graphics will have

OVERALL 38%

A feeble attempt to get on the 3D shoot 'em up bandwagon.



ong ago, in the days of dark castles and magic, a pretty warped head honcho decided that he wanted to be the



reports heard of the original Sorcery were 'unfavourable', and it looks like

things haven't improved since then. Even with a more powerful machine to work with, Virgin have still managed to come up with a slab of unplayable drivel under the name Sorcery Plus. Expectations are high on seeing the impressive title screen, but on playing the game we find that the programmers have forgotten something very important: the gameplay. Whipping from screen to screen unavoidably crashing into monsters which continually sap your non-restorable energy is not my idea of enjoyment. A warning to arcade adventurers: DON'T BUY SORCERY PLUS! master necromancer. To ensure minions in the shape of demons,

success, he decided to make sure that all the other sorcerers couldn't combine their power and thwart his plans. Killing them would let them join their souls and become a powerful joint consciousness, so instead he has imprisoned them all over the realm, guarded by various ghosts, Maff Evanses and other fiendish apparitions.

and then face the might of the nec-You' are a magician who has I romancer himself! ▼ Bleah! This one should have been thrown out with the baby and



PRESENTATION 30%

A high score table and a title screen. Not much really, is it?

GRAPHICS 71%

Groogly! Behind Sorcery's nice graphics and spooky sound effects is one of the most unplayable games I've seen for ages. For a start, you only get one diminishing energy bar to see you through your mission, and as soon as you enter a screen the

sion, and as soon as you enter a screen the monsters home in on you, unimpeded by such petty details as solid walls. After four or five screens you're wizardburgers! Maybe in that time you'll have had a chance to bump off three or four spooks, but that's as far as it gets – there's hardly any chance to use chiects to solve puzzles or rescue other wizards!

chance to use objects to solve puzzles or rescue other wizards! For frustration-mongers or geeks in high tax brackets only.

Some decent sprites and back-grounds give a good first impres-

SOUND 62%

Nice wind and thunder effects out no music at all.

HOOKABILITY 28%

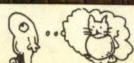
nstantly difficult, but you try to gnore it to search the rooms.

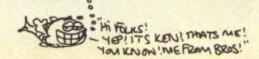
LASTABILITY 12%

If there's any game that makes you want to kick the monitor in

OVERALL 14%

An example of how to produce a frustrating and unplayable arcade adventure.





Infogrames, £24.95 disk

ife. Weird isn't it? Bob Morlok's life is weirder than most having people's. Bob recently bumped into long-dead naturalist Charles Darwin (now living incognito, under the assumed name of Mortimer Slithe). It transpired that Mr Darwin had discovered that video game characters really did exist and were plotting to take over the world. Strangely take over the world. Strangely enough, Bob believed this insane yarn (he always was a bit odd) and decided to program a simulated galaxy into his computer and infiltrate the invading sprite brigade.

So there was Bob - as his alter ego, Blood - sucked Tron-style the computer-simulated Hydra galaxy in his bioship, the Ark. During his search for hostile creatures, an accident with a faulty teleporter in hyperspace produced 30 Blood clones and distributed them amongst the 32,768 planets in the galaxy. As if the impending identity crisis wasn't bad enough, the clones had all taken some of Blood's vital life fluid, and if Blood doesn't get it back soon he'll be. . well . . . dead. Sorry, folks.

You join the fun after Blood has found all but five of his clones, and now he has to fly between planets hunting down clues to their loca-tions. The Ark can't actually make planetfall, but Blood can pilot a remote-controlled space-fish (?) called an Oorx (?) down to the surface and use it to relay communications with any life form it might find.

The conversation is conducted via the UPCOM, a menu of word symbols which can be strung together to form sentences or questions. Some aliens are happy to engage you in conversation, others speak only in enigmatic

numbers and others will only provide helpful information if threaten them or complete a task set by them. Just like real life, eh? Well, not the real life that we've come across . .

winter nights.



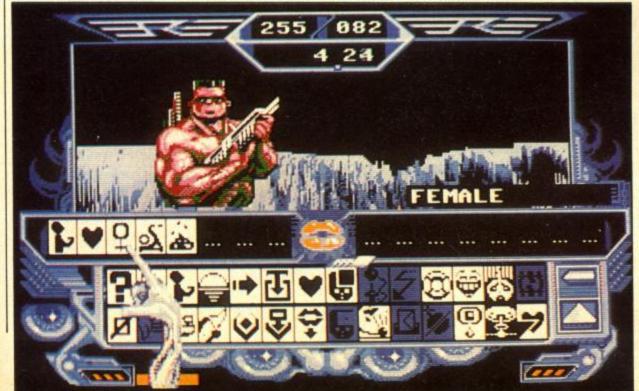
With an almost limitless number of reference points, achieving your goal isn't going to be easy



I thought this was absolutely fab 'n' triff on the 64 so it won't comes as a surprise to learn that I think the Amiga version is fab 'n' triff as well. Woo! I'd be lying if I said the sampled sound and the polished Amiga graphics didn't impress me but basically, when it comes down to it, at grass roots level and all that, it's the brilliant

gameplay, which is just as captivating on both versions, that counts. It's such a clever idea – I mean, if you did visit loads of different planets you wouldn't just be able to talk to the people about back pudding in a Lancashire dielect and expect them to understand. And the fact that you can't always understand them gives the whole thing that extra sense of intergalactic realism. Anyway, if you've ever wanted to be a big fat space captain, like me, or even a thin one, like Kati, get Captain Blood – it's brill.

▼ This thing wanted to mate with us and couldn't stop laughing at his own jokes - maybe you could do better?





Weird but good just about sums this game up. Just like the other versions, the Amiga Captain Blood is a visual treat with the same Gigeresque cockpit dis-

play, colourful planets and hyperspace sequences and an exhilarating 3D Oorx flight. As you would expect though, the sampled music and alien speech effects beat

expect though, the sampled music and alien speech effects beat the other versions hands down. The game's major stumbling block is still the UPCOM translation which continues to provide some pretty incomprehensible bits of alienspeak. Still, persevere and that's something you get used to. Perseverance is something you'll require a lot of, because when you first start playing it seems the game consists solely of flying down to a planet, getting some coordinates, hyperspacing to the next planet, flying down . . . but there is quite a lot more to it than that. Certainly enough to keep you occupied through a few cold and windy winter nights.

Though I didn't really get on like a house on fire Captain with Blood straight

vay (for some reason, I kept finding a bunch of totally uninteresting, deserted planets), it definitely started to grow on me. Once you get the hang of it me. Once you get the hang of the and actually start communicating with some of the weird-looking aliens (not always easy, they say some dead peculiar things), you really start to get the feel of the internal action atmosphere. intergalactic intergalactic atmosphere. don't mind UPCOM - in fact, think it's the imprecise translation which makes the game. With so much guesswork and puzzle-solving involved you really start to feel like a proper explorer – boldly going where no space explorer (or even Vulcan) has a can) has ever gone before. Captain Blood might take a bit of getting used to but be care-ful - once you've got that far, you might never want to stop ...

PRESENTATION 80%

Excellent icon system and save game feature. UPCOM is rather onfusing though. The locations change each time the game is oaded up

GRAPHICS 92%

Gorgeous cockpit, planet and hyperspace displays. Excellent 3D effect on the planetfall sequ-

SOUND 90%

Sampled and remixed version of Jean Michel Jarre's Ethnicolor, accompanied by some atmos-pheric spacey effects.

HOOKABILITY 66%

Requires several hours of thoughtful playing before it grows on you.

LASTABILITY 70%

Plenty of exploring to do, but action may become routine.

OVERALL 81%

Unusual space exploration jaunt for thinkers rather than blas



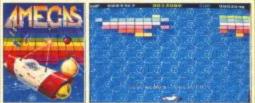
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▲ Half as cheap as a Scalextric, and you don't get anyone standing on the track half way through a race

M.E

I used to have a TCR set yeeears ago. Unfortunately, it didn't last long because someone stood on the pieces of track and bent the connections so that

pieces of track and bent the connections so that they didn't fit together any more. It's a good job you can't do that on a computer, or I wouldn't be able to keep playing Turbo Trax as much as I'd like. It's just as much fun as playing with the original slot racing sets and it's got all the bits that are expensive add-ons with the kits. Things like smoke effects, sound, pitstop, scenery an' all that an' everyfin'. At 25 quid it is a little expensive, though; even so, it works out cheaper than a Scalextric. By the way, did you know that the Kalashnikov AK-47 can fi 600 rounds per minute at a muzzle velocity of 710 m/s (2380 ft/s)? Might be useful, that.



When I was merely an embryo fat person, I used to enjoy building really big layouts with my Scalextric set. The thing about Turbo Trax is that you can't build

really big layouts and you can't make bridges. The designer is just about the only thing that is wrong with the game, however, as it's a lot of fun to play, especially against another person. Zooming past your opponent and knocking him off the chicane is immensely satisfying. I just wish that the freedom of the designer matched up to the playability of the racing: that would have been brill. Another thing, did you know that the Kalashnikov AK-47 fires 7.2662 mm rounds. Remember that.

Microdeal, £24.95 disk

ave any of you readers out there had a run in with your folks because your Scalextric or TCR cars flew off the track and hit the cat or smashed an ornament? You have? Well this is just the thing for you! Turbo Trax is a slot racing system incorporating

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▲ The options screen – you can change just about anything

all the features of a standard layout - including crossovers, chicanes, and even a pitstop - without the hassle of causing severe damage to anything else. Good, eh?

The first thing that appears is the options menu, which allows you to choose a predefined track, load a custom track from disk, choose wet or dry driving conditions, select the number of drivers, the number of laps to be raced and the car you wish to control.

Once the options have been set, moving to the OK icon exits the menu and moves to the track. The race is seen as a plan view on a split or single screen - depending on the selections made. The cars (or car if you're playing a time trial) sit on the grid with their engines running, until the green light appears and they're off!

You steer by pointing the joys-tick in the direction of the track (except on curves) and get a burst of speed by pressing the fire button. Zooming too fast into crossovers or chicanes will turn you over and cause damage, as will riding fast

Mandarin, £24.95 disk

s the population of your home planet grew, so did a very significant problem. No one had any room to live. The solution that the scientists came up with seemed brilliant; a probe that would fly out to seemingly habitable worlds, build an environment that was suitable for population and then reproduce itself and fly off in search of more planets. However, something wrong

After hundreds of years of faultless service, the scanners monitoring the Pioneer Probes noticed that one group had covered the face of a planet with dark, smoky cities. The Probes had mutated. By this time, it was had mutated by this time, it was had mutated by the second the second to the day this second the second that the day this second the second the second that the day this second the second that the day this second the second that the day this second that the day this second that the day this second that the seco too late to do anything, as another even worse strain had developed, which landed on already inhabited worlds and built the cities anyway, using the population as raw fuel to power them.

You, a particularly hard kind of hero, must fly off to the planets that have been detected as having this strain present and attempt to stop



The main feature Plague boasted in all the press was its HAM graphics,

allowing 4096 colours on allowing 4096 colours on screen. However, this isn't the first thing that struck me about the game. What I noticed was the powerhouse intro music, with orchestra strikes galore. Even so, the HAM title page that followed was still very impressive! My first plays were rather a daunting experience. rather a daunting experience, but once I had the navigation sussed I thoroughly enjoyed zooming about blasting the Skyhatches to bits. The action in the shoot 'em up sections is incredibly frenetic, leaving you feeling quite drained after a long battle. Blasting fans should enjoy Pioneer Plague as it's much more than a few pretty pictures.



After seeing how the HAM mode operates in the Photon Paint art utility, it shows how difficult it is at times to get a satisfying picture using this mode. Often strange colour fringes appear where you least expect them, making drawing a HAM picture a very long process. The HAM pictures used in Pioneer Plague on the other hand are very good. There is still a sign of the weird 'ghosting' effect, but you hardly notice this. The game itself is very playable, requiring methodical thought and fast responses to survive. The city scrolling in the blasting sections is a little odd, but you soon get used to it, particularly with all the other stuff going on (by the way the computer warnings sound brilliant – just alien enough to be effective). Good game, good graphics, good sound – what else do you want? Well, a £19.99 price tag would help . . . help...

the probes from launching to other planets and approaching your home system. You control your mothership (the LifeStar) by flying it through 'Wormholes' between

planets, navigating a strange dimension known as the 'Sub-Euclidian Plane'. When orbiting a planet you then transfer to an Air-Ship, which is used to destroy the

It's here at last! The game with all 4096 colours on screen at once - but not in this particular screen. Sorry



over rough track. However, repairs and refuelling can be carried out by stopping in the red and white zone of the pits. Unfortunately, a crash involving both cars on a crossover causes the race to be abandoned.

By the way, if you get tired of the tracks included, you can design your own with the track editor.

PRESENTATION 89%

Lots of options, choice of tracks and cars and a course designer. Nothing about Kalashnikovs

GRAPHICS 86%

Simple but effective sprites and smooth scrolling that effectively aptures the atmosphere of slot-

SOUND 76%

An average tune and some good revving and crashing noises.

HOOKABILITY 90%

Great fun at first racing around the predefined tracks . . .

LASTABILITY 71%

... but its appeal only lasts as a two player game and the course designer is rather fiddly to use.

OVERALL 76%

A great racing game which is just slightly too expensive.

Skyhatches that launch mutated and pretty nasty Probes towards other systems.

As you fly around, rough 'n' tough automatic defence systems launch enemy craft at you, trying

to stop you from succeeding.
While you try and halt the plague, a group of daring colonists launch from your homeworld, their story being relayed to you as you progress through your mission. Right, you've read the info – get on with it!

PRESENTATION 90%

SOUND 89%

d strange but intriguing

HOOKABILITY 80%

ASTABILITY 89

OVERALL 86%



Y'know maaaaan. there's no substitute for cruisin' down the highway in your Ferrari, is there, y'know? I mean you girl by your side and all y'know?

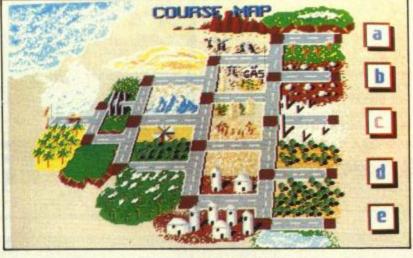
And this is the kind of person that drives very fast in an expensive car like a Ferrari. Makes you sick doesn't it? Well you, too, can realise this sort of dream (the driving a Ferrari part) in US Gold's Amiga conversion of Seclassic driving game Out Run. Sega's

Your vehicle is a brand spanking new, bright red Ferrari Testerossa convertable, complete with personalised number plate. Of course this isn't the kind of car that you just tootle around town in, it's the sort that has to be driven really fast, the kind that has to have a

blonde beauty on the passenger seat to enhance the image. Images have to be kept up, so you enter a road race to prove yourself a cool

Revving up, the light turns green and you're waved off. The race takes place over five stages, each of which must be completed within the time limit to allow you to progress.

Racing would be easy if you were on your own, but as it's all being held on the highways, you must avoid crashing into other cars or obstacles on the track edges and losing precious seconds. If you manage to complete all five sections, then your girlfriend will think you are the coolest, froodiest dude on the roads and will give you your just reward (har, har knowotimean?).



▲ So, how did you do? Not very well, by the look of things



I reckon that if a company converts a game such as

Out Run to the home market, then they should try and make up for the loss of the control system and hydraulic movement by making the 3D movement effective and atmospheric. Instead of doing this, US Gold have merely created a pretty unthrilling racing game which captures little of the feel of the original. The graphics are jerky and ineffective, with some of the most horrendous mistakes imaginable. For example, when turning from side to side, the driver and passenger swap sides! The only notable presentation driver and passenger swap sides! The only notable presentation piece is the loading sequence – and even that is very self indulgent. Considering the power of the machine, Out Run should have been a lot better.

▼ This may look good standing still - but it fails to live up to expectations when it moves





I'm sick of this. Everyone knows that the Amiga is

a more powerful computer than the ST, so why do software houses release Amiga games that are just the ST versions virtually ported across to the Commodore machine? Out Run is almost exactly the same as the ST version apart from a few sound changes and the addition of an intro sequence (which, incidentally, is extremely cringeworthy). The graphics are fairly well defined, but they move like cardboard cutouts, wibbling about all over the place. Another thing is that on the arcade version when the time ran out you sort of coasted to a stop, but this version just stops dead, even when you're inches from the checkpoint. Oh, and its multiload is slow, causing frequent delays. A disappointing conversion.

PRESENTATION 48%

The very long loader and annoying in-game quirks make for frustrating going.

GRAPHICS 56%

Fairly detailed but horribly animated sprites drive along cardboard roads.

SOUND 53%

Arcade-like music but terrible screechy sound effects.

HOOKABILITY 47%

Dodgy steering and dull playability are hardly the stuff that addictive games are made of.

LASTABILITY 35%

Even getting a friend to rock the chair about won't make it keep its appeal for very long.

OVERALL 41%

A dull conversion that achieves little of its potential.

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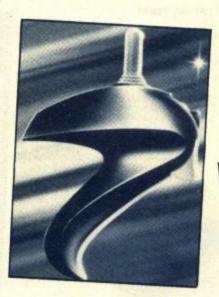
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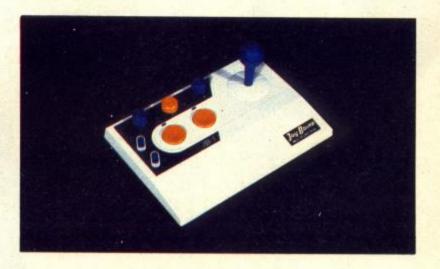


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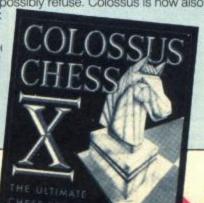
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Wanted: Disk version of Borrowed Time. Contact Mark Coveney, Red Tiles, Main Road, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 3JF.

and my best regards to all C64 users. I have the newest stuff on disk. Send list/disk to Alpha One, 100 Lancaster Gate Flat No 9, Lon-don W2, England. All over the world.

Wanted: MPS 803 printer. Must be in good condition. Will pay postal delivery cost. Tel: 0202 887672 after 6pm, Bill Bartlett, 226 Rempstone Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 1SY.

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CBM 64 plus tapes and books and tape player £175. Disk drive and loads of disks and loads of books only £200. MPS 801 printer only £195. Letters to 110 Clarendon Road, Hove BN3 3WQ. Phone 23009.

Commodore 64, Excelerator datasette, 100+ games, GEOS, SEUCK, Neos mouse, cheese, mouse mat, Expert cartridge, utility disk, disk box, joystick, blank disks. £300. Phone 0352 59285 after 6pm.

CBM 64 cassette games for sale, all originals eg. Buggy Boy, Platoon, Skate or Die £4. Send SAE to Richard Anthony, 22 North Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6DW for list.

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C64 disk and tape user, swap latest stuff with anyone. Send disks or tapes to Timothy Pow-ell, 6 Idsworth Road, Sheffield 5, S5 6UP Eng-land. Tel: (0742) 439891. All letters answered.

Disk users GBH, 36 Moor Top Drive, Hemsworth, West Yorkshire WF9 4SE, would like to swap the latest stuff on C64. All letters will get reply.

Amiga: For swapping new stuff write to: The Supervisors, PO Box 12, 1605 Chexbres, Switzerland. Only Amiga.

Commodore Plus 4 Freaks. We're searching for contacts all over the world. We'd be glad to receive any soft or hardware or literature. Tape only! No financial interests! Contact: Kai Gruenler, Semmelweisstr. 13, 9900 Plauen, East Germany.

C64 owner wants to swap latest stuff worldwide. Write to Dave Lewis, 185 Fox-borough Gardens, London SE4 1HS England. Disk only, no tapes. No lamers pl

Amiga contacts wanted to swap latest stuff, all letters will be answered. Write now to Andy, 75 Chalice Close, Belle Isle, Leeds, West Yorks. LS10 3QW.

TRT - Write to us for C64 swaps on disk only! We guarantee a reply to anyone, anywhere – worldwide – TRT, 101 Hamilton Road, Wavell Heights, QLD Australia, 4012!! Write to us!!

Wanting to swap Amiga demos and games Send your list to the Joint c/o Joseph Sexton, Ford Road, Shepparton 3630, Australia. All letters will be answered.

Amiga/64 user would love to swap demos, games, hints, tips etc. All replies answered. Ruth Bowling, 1 Sherwood Avenue, Salford M7 0TG, England.

C84 disk user wants to swap latest software with you!! America, Canada welcome. Send disks, lists, letters to Paul, 16 Chiltern Approach, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 9SJ. Every letter will be answered. 100% guarantee, write now.

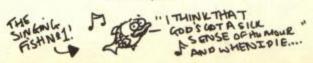
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Don Ford, 30 Cedar Street, Leeds 12, West Yorks, urgently needs new contacts for swaps, games, utilities etc. Extensive library with new stuff in every week. Send your lists now! Will definitely answer all letters.

Amiga user wants to swap very new stuff with anyone anywhere. Write to: TBB, PO Box 3029, 1400 Yverdon 1, Switzerland.

I want heaps of penpals to swap the latest C64 stuff. So send lists of disks to Matt Kirkbride, 10 Feltham Court, Rosebud, Vic-toria, Australia 3939. I'll reply to all who write.

DISK USERS. Sweety, 4 Vigo St, Salem, Old-ham, Lancs. OL4 5HZ would like to swap the newest stuff with people all over the world on C64 disk and the Amiga. Send disks now! All



Amiga owner wants to swap games, demos etc. Send your list, letters, disks etc. to Giles Jones, "Greenleaves", Sandy Lane, Hatherton, Cannock, Staffs. WS11 1RW. I will try to reply most letters.

C64 disk users! To swap the latest stuff send disks or write to: SHARK, PO BOX 93, Balling, NSW 2478, Australia. All letters and disks will be answered. Write Now!

64 user wants to swap all latest games on tape, pokes as well, I ain't bothered. Send lists to: Nick Foot, 457 Newtondale, Sutton Park, Hull HU7 4BW. Write as soon as possible.

VIC 20 software wanted, will swap for Amiga, C64 games or cash. Ring now on 01 751 5913 or write 147 Hounslow Road, Feltham, Middx. TW14 0BN. Especially U.S. imports!

Amiga owners! Get in touch now (please) to swap or sell demos, PD, games, etc. I'm a meagre (geddit?). Stamp away: Mark Collins, 24 Beech Close, Gillway, Tamworth, Staffs. B79 8OH.

Amiga 500 user would like to contact others for swaps etc. Please send lists to Alex, 112 Porthkerry Road, Barry, South Glarnorgan CF6 8ER.

64/128 freak wants to swap latest stuff with other users worldwide, 5.25" and 3.5" (1581). Send disks for fast reply. 100% return. Send to Bill, PO Box 103, Red Cliffs, Victoria 3496, Australia. OK!

Amiga. We are searching new contacts. Write to: Markus Viitala, PJA 1, 61800 Kauhajoki, Finland or Marko Jokela, Vastatuuentie 6, 61800 Kauhajoki, Finland. P.S. All letters 100% answered. Hot stuff.

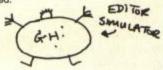


Amiga user seeks people to write to and swap hints, games, demos and PD software. All letters answered. Write to: Troy Helm, Room 14, Ashdown House, Varley Halls of Residence, Coldean Lane, Brighton BN1 9GR.

Amiga and C64 disk users!! Good contacts wanted from around the world or around the corner! Swap hints, demos etc. latest stuff. Send lists, letters or disks to T.T.R., 13 Clarendon Road, London E11.

Amiga and C64 penpals wanted to swap hints, tips etc. I promise to reply to all, so contact me: Kate Simpson, 10 Salisbury Avenue, Shepparton, 3630 Victoria, Australia.

C64, tape/disk owner, 13, would like to swap games, programs, tips etc. with other C64 owners. Write to: Mikkel Burchardt, Nyborgvej 13, 5750 Ringe, Denmark. All letters answered.



USER GROUPS

Commodore Users. A new computing club has just started. We publish a bi-monthly magazine packed with news, reviews, hints, discounts etc. For further details contact: WCA, 295 Peniel Green Road, Llansamlet, Swansea SA7 9BJ, Tel: 0792 72745.

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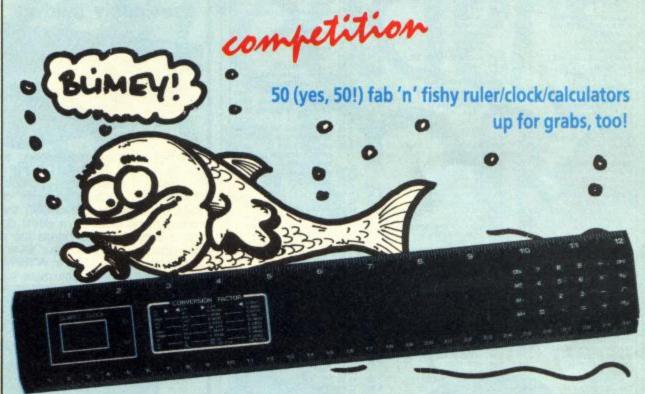
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KEN THE FISH PROUDLY PRESENTS THE

WELL – HAVE YOU GOT AN AMIGA OR WOT, JOHN?



Blub! Ugh! Pondweed, horrid stuff. Fish don't like houseplants – or hasn't anyone even bothered to tell you that yet? Personally I'd rather have a bit of Art Deco furniture, but no – all I get lumbered with is smelly weed, little brown sausages and a right dumping ground of a plastic castle (which incidentally, fish followers, has turned a decidedly slimey shade of green).

What I really could do with in my undersea watery kingdom is an Amiga – lots of you readers have them. Gordo says an Amiga wouldn't work in my murky depths – pollocks! If that's the case, then tell me how, fat humnoid, does my word processor work? (Not very well - several squillion ZZAP! readers) Ho flipping ho.

If I knew just how many of you surface-dwellers have an Amiga I might be able to persuade greasy gut-bucket Houghton to get me one as well. Whaddya say? Tell yer what I'll do (an' I'm selling me own Gurnardmother here) – I'll give the first 50 replies a FREE ruler/clock/calculator! Can't say fairer than that, can I?

So that's the deal. Complete the form and send it to: CAN'T SEE THE AMIGAS FOR THE POND WEED SURVEY, ZZAP!, PO Box 10, Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1DB. Send this fishy offering so that it arrives no later than February 9th – and if you abide by the comp rules, you never know, yours truly may be the owner of an Amiga this time next month. Gloop gloop!

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You might have thought that with the Christmas season now over, the time of good will to all men (and girlies), the exchanging of crappy crackers with weak jokes and the juggling of gift-wrapped bananas amongst the three wise men was over. (Pause for breath) Weee-Ill, you'd be wrong, because we're offering ONE lucky reader £50 of software and NINE others £30 of software. Is that all? Nope, because we're offering those same TEN people a ZZAP! T-shirt each.

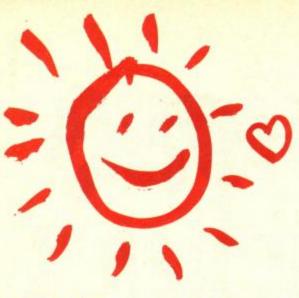
Why? Because we're stark staring mad.

No no – ha ha – just a joke ha ha. It's weally because id be dat time ob de year again, when de good people at ZZAP! dust down their Database Minion, force-feed him a couple of turkey slices and persuade him (for it is a he) that he should sift through a load of forms which will determine the greatest game of the year – according to you. And the first ten people drawn out of Lloyd's paper bag will receive those prizes. Good, eh?

This year, the awards (except for one special category) are only open to 64 games. Next year, as the Amiga grows more popular and is more fully introduced into ZZAP!, there'll be two separate sections...

Until then, get voting for YOUR game of the year!

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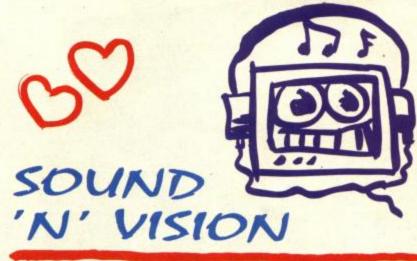
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Satisfied? Then don't delay! Send off the form before January 10 to ZZAP! READERS AWARDS, PO Box 10, LUDLOW, Shropshire, SY8 1DB – and, who knows, you could have a late Christmas present! Yipeee! Er, yeah . . .

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EAN CONQUEROR

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current enemy troop movements are allowed to continue, winning the war is gonna be a piece of cake - for them. Some-



Rack-It been building a rather good reputation for them-selves over the

past few months with playable budget games and highprofile re-releases. What a pity that they've taken such a backward leap with Ocean Conqueror! There is a lot to it compass headings to read, weapons to be fired and docks to be negotiated - but the whole thing looks really cob-bled together. The graphics are extremely poor, being more confusing than helpful, and the sound is abysmal. If I hear that title tune once more I'll probably throw a fit! If you spend three quid on this you must be either desperate or crackers.



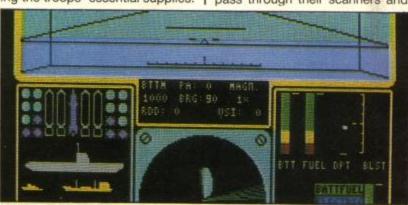
Bleuch! This has really thrown cold water on my ambitions to become a famous submarine captain. If the world really looks like this from a subaquatic viewpoint, I think I'd rather spend the rest of my life at home with a dead fish (sorry Ken). If you suffer

from migraine, avoid these graphics like you would a double helping of Maths homework on a Friday night - they won't do you any good. So, is there a game under the badly designed surface? Erm ... ye-es but it's confusing and about as interesting as a wet weekend with Gordo – nothing to up periscope about.

thing has to be done and quick.

Enemy shipping lines are carrying the troops' essential supplies.

The only way to stop them is to send an infiltration craft that could pass through their scanners and



▲ Nyyyyurk! You haven't bought this, have you?

destroy the freighters. Cue the submarine under your command Nautilus.

To get to the freighters you must also dispose of the escorting destroyers, which are heavily armed and can outrun you.

The future of the allies is in your hands. Can you save them? Well, maybe you could if you were playing the game, but if you're not, then you won't. OK?

PRESENTATION 30%

Nice loading screen but very messy appearance and confus-ing controls.

GRAPHICS 21%

Glitchy, bland and boring display plus unremarkable 3D wire frame

SOUND 12%

Crunches for explosions and a dire title tune.

HOOKABILITY 13%

When the game screen appears, the phrase 'Oh, no!' springs to

LASTABILITY 24%

You could get used to it in time . . . a lot of time!

OVERALL 21%

Not really up to Rack-It's usual

ERNATIONAL **IGBY SIMULATOR**

Code Masters, £2.99 cassette

yyyy - Up and under! Lovely try! Oooh, 'e's off for an early bath. Hahaha! and other rugby commentator



I can't really profess to being a great rugby fan in the first place,

and Code Masters' latest 'simulator' isn't the kind of game to make think otherwise. The graphics and sound are rather poor to say the least, and unfortunately the gameplay matches this quality. It's all very well haring after the player with the ball when you can't tackle him when you get there. Despite their (successful) attempts to create a higher profile, I sometimes think that Code Masters compromise quality for price. Don't buy it because it's cheap - save up for something a bit more expensive and a lot better.

type phrases. If you're the kind of person who's familiar with these but doesn't relish the thought of getting beaten half senseless and being freezing cold on a rugby pitch, then Code Masters' latest simulation is aimed at you.

Play a one off game (for either one or two players) or in a league: either way, the action begins with the kick off and a mad rush down the field by your team. The object is then very simple; run over the

▼ What next? Professional International Erica Roe Simulator Plus?



I'm always wary of dodgy slogans on game packaging and putting 'definitely the

best rugby game' when it's the only rugby game I can remember is highly dodgy. What's worse is that David Darling is the only person quoted as raving about it! Well, to be honest, I can't see many others being enthusiastic, as it's a pretty useless program. It's all very well including leagues and other tactics when there's no tackle move. I've played it enough to have to write about it, but I can't see myself playing it again.

opposing team's goal line whilst holding the ball and then put it on the ground. Simple, eh? Well, not when the other team try and stop you from doing this.

Many features of the game of rugby are included, such as line scrums and conversion kicks. You can tailor the style of play by changing the team 'policies', which govern the type of defence tactics to be used.

PRESENTATION 72%

Lots of options but a naff control system.

GRAPHICS 38%

Piddly little sprites wibble about unrealistically over a garish pitch.

SOUND 50%

The opening tune isn't too bad, but the other tunes and sound effects are crummy.

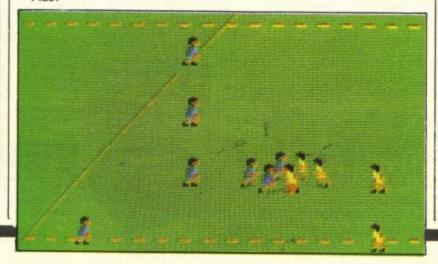
HOOKABILITY 46%

Rugby fans may find it initially interesting, but casual sports fans will find it tough going.

LASTABILITY 31%

Soon enough everyone will get bored of it, rugby fans or not.

OVERALL 39%



GAPLUS

Mastertronic, £1.99 cassette

ou thought wasp stings and midge bites were bad? Well, get a load of this: the Gaplus race of space insectoids is about to nibble through the fabric of the space-time continuum spelling doom and postal delays on a universal scale!

Before you lie 50 parsecs of Gaplus-infested galaxy. Amongst the swirling hordes which swoop around your astro-fighter, there are Mother Gapluses – when killed they drop a weapon upgrade cap-

Catching a tracker beam lets



I jus' lerv all those old-fashioned not very hi-tech coin-ops like Galaga, Galaxians and Gorf - Gaplus is pretty similar but it just doesn't strike me as being anywhere near as much fun. The graphics are bland,

nostalgic gameplay simply lacks bite. Sensible Software did a much better job with Galaxibirds – if you can still find a copy lying around somewhere get that and save Gaplus for a really rainy day.



▲ An oldie, but still a goldie (well, almost)

WOUN GOT!



We've & already seen a few games from ace Compunetters, but while they've all

been good technically, the gameplay has always lacked substance. When you put Ash and Dave, arguably the best demo-technicians on the 'Net, together with a good game plan, you get an excellent blast - and that's Gaplus! I was a little surprised that they hadn't done a better job of the game, because the sprites are bland, the sound is limited to a few jingles and there's even a glitch in the scrolling starfield! Luckily, any poor first impressions these might create are shattered after only a few games, and I was soon fighting it out for top position on the score table. Gaplus is really addictive and for the price, rou'd be stupid to miss it.

you capture up to four drones to widen your firing pattern. Other capsules give you doubled fire-power or a cyclone accelerator more of a decelerator really, as it stops Gapluses in their tracks for you to shoot them with ease.

PRESENTATION 50%

ompetent but no real outstand-

GRAPHICS 45%

Chunky and pretty blandly col-

he odd jingle and some pleas-

HOOKABILITY 68%

Nothing special to provide nstant attraction, but it grows on u after only a few games.

ASTABILITY 72%

Plenty of great blasting fun to keep you occupied – for ages.

OVERALL 71%

Good old-fashioned blasting at

EO CLASSICS

Silverbird, £1.99 cassette

unday afternoons with the family 'in the old days' used to sometimes end up with everyone crowded around the TV playing 'tennis' on a crappy old video game console, whose idea of graphics was white lines and sound effects that consisted of the

Hence the name of Silverbird's

latest product. This piece of antiquated video game-istry harks back to those bygone days of TV history. Included are six games tennis, football, squash, solo squash, four-bat blip and Asterbliperoids (which is tennis in space with a few asteroids thrown



What the hell is the point of this? I thought we'd seen the last of games like this years ago, then peopleike Silverbird come up and 'revive' them for the more modern machines. Well, I was bored of them a long

time ago and they don't improve with age it seems, as I'm still bored of them now. The graphics in Blip are still of the basic bat 'n' ball type with a few minor enhancements, and the sound merely consists of a short tune which plays over and over and over and . . . AAARGH! Get me away from this!



This is a poor excuse for a video game, even on budget. The sub-games

included were dead and buried a loooong time ago, and the only reason they were popular in the first place was because they were the only games you could get. Stuff like Pacman will keep a sort of ageless charm because it has more in the way of playability – this has just simplistic 'bouncing a ball about' content. Maybe if there had been some nicely designed graphics and atmospheric music, it may have been more impressive, but as it stands, Blip is not very good at

PRESENTATION 31%

One or two players and a choice of six naff games.

GRAPHICS 23%

The simple sprites and pewkworthy scrolling back-grounds are a joke.

SOUND 16%

A five note tune that goes on and on

HOOKABILITY 19%

The games included are hardly mind taxing enough to keep you

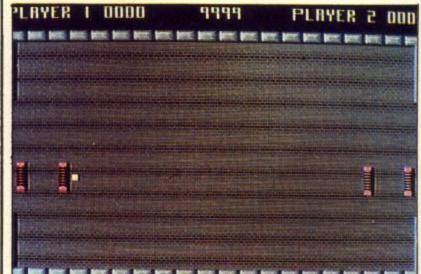
LASTABILITY 12%

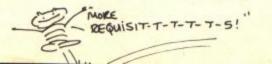
Games like this have been boring for a long time.

OVERALL 15%

One of most pointless budget releases ever.

▼ Yer basic Breakout game bounces back







Christmas is over - waah, sob, boohoo! You've eaten all the Quality Streets, the turkey's just a plate of bones and your mum and dad are really mad because they can see all the presents they bought you before the season of goodwill going for half-price in the January sales. You're stuffed, bored, listless and tired. You could get yourself one of those cheapo rereleases from Woolies but you just don't know which to buy (oh no!). Well, this is your lucky day, because heeeeere's Kati to tell you which ones to avoid and which to sell your grandmother to get. Weyhey.

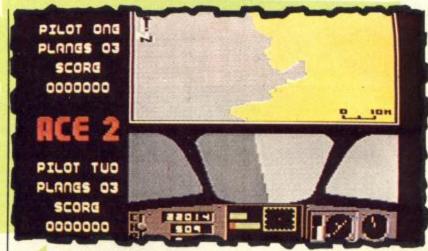
ACE 2 Gamebusters, £2.99

he sequel to the everso complicated but incredibly excellent flight-sim Ace turns out to be a completely different kettle of fish (pool). Instead of having to learn a whole batch of involved commands – you know, flaps, rudders, ejector seat and all that – you're shoved straight into the hotseat of a hi-tech jet fighter somewhere over the Middle East.

No messing about with the manual just rush straight into the thick of do or die dogfights and hairraising ground base strikes.

Great fun for one player but even better for two, this is one of those straightforward. dead-easy-toplay flight games that you just can't afford to miss - no siree, not for £2.99 anyway

OVERALL 90%



evice in the bat looked like an d "Predictor" on I hope my mother he occult. dabbling h of the about the dangers of

JET SET WILLY: THE FINAL FRONTIER

Ricochet, £1.99

e-ell this has dated rather a lot (it was pretty dated in its time as well) - stick-like platform graphics aren't really all the rage anymore – but (call me weird if you like) it's still one of my all-time favourite games.

Willy's a bit of a wide boy but his days of limbo-dancing, midnight barbecues and skinny dipping in the pool are numbered: if he doesn't clear up all the bottles. glasses and party paraphernalia left over from his latest orgy, his

housekeeper Maria won't let him go to bed. Aaah!

So off he goes through the various rooms of his huge mansion avoiding gargoyles, flying pigs and er... poisonous hopping rabbits (yeah, well, it is a *very old* game). The graphics are alternatively stick-like and blocky and there's practically no sound – but for a nostalgic trip down memory lane it's definitely worth a peek.

OVERALL 63%

THE GROWING PAINS OF **ADRIAN MOLE**

Ricochet, £1.99

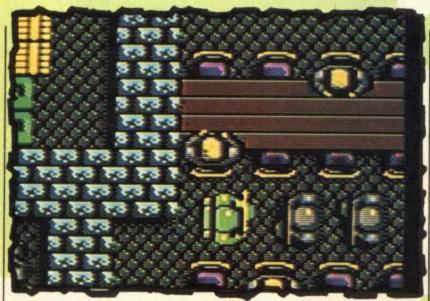
e's riddled with spots, in love with Box, and totally over-whelmed by his adolescence. Being a teenager never did agree Adrian Mole but at least it made him famous. I mean, come on who can complain with games, books, a musical and a TV series to their name?

The second of two supposed adventure games, Growing Pains turned out to be nothing more than

a bit of very funny interactive fiction. That's OK while it lasts, but you don't really influence the story and there aren't what you'd really call any problems to solve. All those well-loved, madcap, zany characters are there but if you really love them all that much, read the books again and don't waste your money on the game. Boom,

OVERALL 30%





KNIGHTMARE

Ricochet, £1.99

ha! If you've been watching the excellent Knightmare series on TV and fancy yourself as a bit of an adventurer, this might the just be your cup of tea. Instead of guiding a mate through the rooms of the Knightmare world, you take control of an imprisoned knight using a combination of joystick

and keypress commands.
You're stuck in a dungeon and don't fancy making chalk marks on the wall for the rest of your life, so you put away your penknife and

try to find a way to escape - with-out getting killed by spiders, monsters and pretty horrible er . . . well . . . horrible things on the way. Every now and then, a creature sets a riddle: get the answer wrong and - minzaguiness, allacazam - you're dead. Nasty

A bit of a toughie but if you're an arcade adventure fan, well worth a

OVERALL 68%



MAD FLUNKY Alternative, £1.99

his was originally released under the title of Flunky looks like Alternative have added the 'Mad' bit just to make it sound that extra tad-ette wild and wacky. Wacky it may be, but it also takes a bit of thought.

Here's the story. You've been snatched up out of the Labour Exchange as the likely candidate for a career as butler in Buckingham Palace. All the royals have their own personal needs and desires and unless you manage to meet them (bring Fergie some freckles for example), you've had it. Success involves exploring the palace, carrying the right object at the right time and trying not to get zapped by one of the guards.

Good fun for a bit, especially considering the bright, bold, col-ourful graphics but the puzzles can get a bit confusing and aren't really all that mad. Worth checking out.

OVERALL 69%

EAGLE'S NEST

Players, £1.99

unny old life, innit? Every now and then a game like Gauntletcomes along, causes a big stir and spawns more clones than Maff can eat hot frankfurters. Most of them are inferior copies but one or two turn out to be even better than the original - Eagle's Nest is one of good ones, dummy). those (no, not the duds, one of the

It's wartime Germany and you've got to infiltrate a massive castle, rescue its prisoners and

blow up each of its floors. Shooting crates and boxes wins you extra ammunition, jewels, energy and food.

Atmospheric graphics and sound effects (ricocheting bullets, footsteps, metallic clangs) combine to create a really authentic claustrophobic wartime atmosphere. If you missed this on compilation add it to your collection NOW.

OVERALL 91%



STAR PAWS Alternative, £1.99

ot a lot of people know this, but out in the darkest reaches of space there's a purple planet and on that planet there's...
wait for it, wait for it...an illegal
colony of legendary Tasty Space
Griffins. Ooh! Only one dog (dog?) can catch them - and his name is Rover Captain Pawstrong (swoon!).

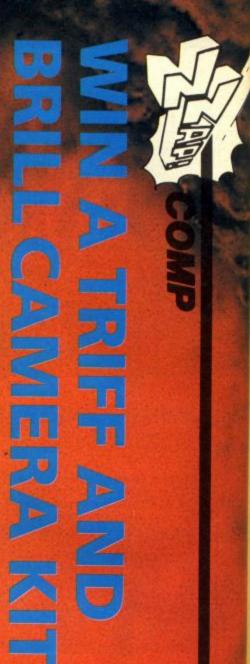
Making use of a variety of objects and his bare paws, Rover can catch the leggy birdies in a

variety of ways (jumping on them, blasting 'em with a thermonuclear device, catapulting 'em . . .) and there's even a bonus puzzle to win him extra points.

With its excellent playability, outstanding parallax scrolling and cutey graphics Star Paws has to be one of the most enjoyable rereleases on the market right now. Eat worms rather than miss it.

OVERALL 93%







つつカ ガロマミニカい OT MON NOWS ーいりののも一所の

not interested in your list of flight sim are you going to play reckon you're going to eat many bags of Quavers you potential Valentines or how can trighten your mum. We're and pretend you're 8 slices of don't mean water the plants play footsie with your hamster what we want to know is: which hickory smoked bacon so you into knots with the brilliant you going to do next? And I friends in Ace 2, what exactly are flight sim, Ace, you've fought OK, now you've tied your brain ike a mad dog to beat your

could try Cascade's Ace 2088. No Stumped, huh? Well, you

> middle of . dead professional flight veteran you're launched straight into the time because, novice pilot or boring, earthly locations this . . deepest space. . wait for it, wait for

hasn't got time to hang about variety of weaponry to fire, a bright individual like you just Exciting or what? control system to master plus a comprehensive on-board gonna be one long job. With 118 planets in full 3D to rescue, a packed dehydrated bacon away a larder full of vacuumbrown sauce, because this is sandwiches with lashings of Let's hope you've stashed

camera kit as well. Woo! produce a good enough drawing of a totally futuristic, fantastically equipped and throw in a fab 'n' triff Cascade spacecraft and we'll brilliantly engineered combat intergalactic combat sim? Well, Want a copy of this

remember to include your name pencils and get scribbling now Finished? Right then, put you something, so sharpen your awaiting the compo runners-up and address and send it to: picture in an envelope, good chance of winning if you enter, you've got a dead 50 copies of Ace 2088 are

ZZAP! TOWERS, PO BOX 10 人 SP-ACE 2088 COMP **LUDLOW, SY8 1DB**

February 12th, you haven't got a hope in hell of winning If we don't receive your entry by

ything. Hard life, innit?





CLASSIC COMPUTER

CHES

PART FOUR

DATELINE: Stockholm,

Sweden, March 1986

A 35 year-old French programmer is arrested and charged by Stockholm's District Attorney with stealing over £5,000,000. He successfully hijacked the loot from car makers, Volvo, as it was being transferred to the Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken via computer to an insurance com-

pany, and would have got away with it if he hadn't made a classic computer cock-up. When he opened up a new fake account in his own name, using the same computer, he entered the wrong branch number and transferred the loot into the bank from which he had just stolen it!

DATELINE: Hollywood, USA, 1976

During the dreadful remake of the 1933 classic King Kong, a computerised giant ape hand is constructed to abuse starlet Jessica Lange. The servos continually break down, and a unique system is devised to overcome the problem. Critics are bemused when the 'primitive tribesmen' are heard to chant the

phrase 'unga-bunga' all over the soundtrack at the drop of a spear, until actor Jeff Bridges let slip a technological in-joke. 'Unga-bungas' are the film-set slang for the devices that have been used to cure the computerised hand's servo malfunctions. They are better known as 'condoms'.



DATELINE: NASA Mission Control, USA, October 1984

After billions of dollars has been spent on making sure that the Space Shuttle doesn't suffer any more computer cock-ups, four primary aviation computers are introduced to ensure reliability. The countdown reaches Launch minus 75 seconds when a fifth back-up computer pulls the plug and aborts lift-off. A patch to correct a previous timing bug has opened a

1 in 67 probability window that the computers will be out of sync. Because the fifth computer is running a different system from the original four machines, they have never had a heart-to-heart chat before, and the new machine refuses to trust them. The cost of this little failure to communicate runs into several million dollars.

DATELINE: London,

England, August, 1988

Freelance journalists working for a title owned by ex-hippie millionaire Felix Dennis are delighted to receive two identical cheques for their work. Naturally, being mercenary, immoral and poverty stricken, they all cash the cheques and say nothing. After a month or so, they each get an embarrassed phone call from the accounts

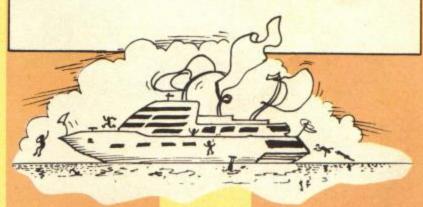
department politely requesting a refund. This request is ignored, and the overpayments are treated as generous unprecedented advance payment for their words of wisdom. The accounting cock-up is blamed on a computer error, and the matter is dropped. The publication's title? Computer Shopper.

DATELINE: The Solent,

England, June 1985

A revolutionary sailing ship undergoes trials off the Isle of Wight, utilising fixed sail formations that are computer controlled to take maximum advantage of any available wind speed and direction. After only 20 minutes the computer goes berserk, and the sails start doing the

dance of the seven veils, forcing the sleek prototype to appeal for a tow back to harbour. After checking all systems it is discovered that modern maritime technology has succumbed to an ancient seafaring tradition: rat's piss.



DATELINE: London.

England, August 1988

Masterfind Ltd is a head hunting agency for computer staff. It has an 'urgent need' to send 2,500 recruitment telexes, but Telecom Gold normally allows only 50 messages to be sent together. MicroLink gets into bed with Telecom Gold, and they come up with a solution: to send two

blocks of 1,000 and one block of 500 telexes evernight. Masterfind trumpet that this achievement 'is an impressive milestone in UK computer communications' that will radically change their fortunes. It sure does. They promptly go bust.

DATELINE: New York, USA 1956

Warren S. McCulloch is a futurologist, an expert on the new technology, a man who can confidently predict the future of computing. After lengthy analysis he comes up with the certainty that a computer

'smart enough to beat a champion chess player would require the Pentagon to house it, Niagara's power to run it, and Niagara's waters to cool it.' Whoops.

DATELINE: The Matrix, Planet Earth, October 1987

(************************

Computers are programmed to scan the world's stock exchanges, and on average about 20% of all trading is automatically carried out by machines. Since September 1986, when computers were responsible for a 'mini stock market crash', they have been reprogrammed not to follow one another blindly over the

financial cliff, and cause computerised panic selling. No sooner is the system up and running, when the world's trading computers decide that the economy is going down the toilet, and 40% of all trading is taken over by computers with the single instruction 'sell!' The result is the biggest crash since 1929.

DATELINE: Chicago, Illinois, USA, November 1988

Vice President George Bush's minders rig up a multi-State computerised monitoring system, whereby viewers register their emotions while Bush makes a campaign speech. The phrase 'read my lips' registers a large positive response when he talks about not cutting taxes, and the phrase is processed into all of his rally speeches. The computerised teleprompter is able to tell him exactly what to say, when to pause for maximum effect and even

prompts him with 'spontaneous' remarks. While addressing an election meeting of Republicans in a Chicago sports stadium, Bush whips up his audience thanks to the teleprompter and its control computer until he reaches the magic phrase 'read my lips'. At these words the screen goes blank, Bush goes blank and those in the front of the crowd can clearly lip-read the phrase 'f***ing computers' from his speech writer.



..........

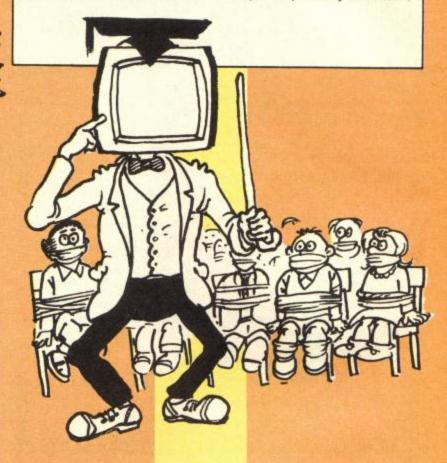
DATELINE: Chicago, Illinois, USA, July 1985

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority runs a check on electronic fund transfers between local banks, who are proudly trumpeting that their computer system is infallible. Of 16 banks investigated, 12 are discovered to be leaking cash at an average loss of \$833,279 per incident.

DATELINE: Kingston on Thames, England, November 1988

The local library is rightly proud of its computerised bar code system, and believes that the cost of over £10,000 is fully justified. Mr Peter Dalton, head of Beverley School Sixth Form examines the system, duplicates it

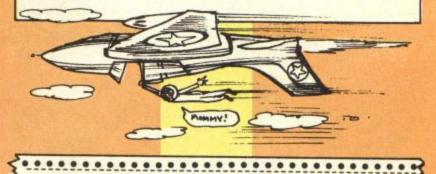
and makes a few improvements for his own use, including a real-time clock, a computer-generated bar code writer and assorted friendly onscreen greetings. The cost of the complete improved system? £55.



DATELINE: Pacific Ocean, 1977

The US Air Force patrols the skies, vowing never again to repeat the computerised mistakes experienced in Vietnam. Their F-16 bombers are a masterpiece of modern war technology, having fully-automated on-board global map reading facilities,

so that their sexy nukes won't get lost. They don't get lost, but the North American-based programmers have overlooked one wee terrestrial fact. Every time the bombers cross the Equator, they flip upside down



DATELINE: Aleutian Islands, Alaska, USA, February 1980

Tomahawk cruise missiles are tested under 'battle conditions', using the very latest intelligent rockets that can read the landscape, check it against their memorised maps, and home in to blast any target to oblivion. They whizz over land and sea until they find themselves over the flatlands north of Nakenk, and the Texas

Instruments memory chip gets somewhat confused, mainly due to the fact that Alaska is covered in snow, and the Cruise missiles can't recognise any landmarks. The computer takes a 'logical' decision, and the missiles turn around and head for 'home'!





THE ZZAP! READERS CHARTS

GAMESTOP 10

1	(14)	BARBARIAN II	Palace
2	(9)	LAST NINJA 2	System 3
3	(5)	SALAMANDER	Ocean
4	(6)	BIONIC COMMANDO	GO!
5	(7)	THE GREAT GIANNA SISTI	ERS GO!
6	(2)	IMPOSSIBLE MISSION II	US Gold/Epyx
7	(17)	CYBERNOID 2	Hewson
8	(NE)	PACMANIA	Grand Slam
9	(3)	BUGGY BOY	Elite
10	(11)	PROJECT STEALTH FIGHT	ER Microprose
11	(1)	HAWKEYE	Thalamus
12	(15)	ARMALYTE	Thalamus
13	(16)	BOMBUZAL	Imageworks
14	(14)	10	Firebird
15	(13)	TARGET RENEGADE	Imagine
16	(NE)	E. HUGHES' INT. SOCCER	Audiogenic
17	(17)	PAC-LAND	Grandslam
18	(19)	DEFENDER OF THE CROW	N Mirrorsoft
19	(NE)	RED STORM RISING	Microprose
20	(RE)	GUNSHIP	Microprose

COIN-OPTOP10

1	(1)	DOUBLE DRAGON	Taito
2	(3)	WEC LE MANS	Konami
3	(NE)	GALAXY FORCE	Sega
4	(4)	VULCAN VENTURE	Konami
5	(6)	BLASTEROIDS	Atari
6	(NE)	TOOBIN'	Tengen
7	(8)	R-TYPE	Irem
8	(9)	PACMANIA	Atari
9	(NE)	CONTINENTAL CIRCUS	Taito
10	(10)	MR HELI	Irem

NOTVECTES THIS MUNTH! FOR ERR!	to Thunks appliession!
ropten	11 1
VEGETABL	e Songs

1	ASPARAGUS BLOODY ASPAR	AGUS UTumin
2	LEFT TO MY OWN KING EDWARDS	S The Potato Shop Boys
3	KELP!	The Beatroots
4	SWEDEHEAD	Molasses
5	I SHOULD BE SO RADISH	Caulie Minogue
6	DROP THE PEA	Brossel Sprouts
7	AVOCADO FLOW	Endive
8	GREEN GROCERS	Shakin' Spinach
9	HEY MANGOHATTAN	Prefab Sprout
10	BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATERCRESS	Simon and Garpumpernickel

Well, there goes another one: we felt that the music

Well, there goes another one: we felt that the music section was getting a bit boring because the same people wrote in every month and voted for the same games. If there's a big outcry about this, we'll bring it back – it's all up to you!

Anyway, from this month we've given you the opportunity to vote in our Alternative Chart (cor! Alternative! Oooooh!) – this will change from month to month accordingly; to give you an idea, we've supplied you with a list of the ZZAP! team's Top Ten favourite vegetable songs – you can do much better than us, can't you?

Oh – and remember – having your charts plucked from the paper bag first will result in loadsa free software an' all that an' everyfin'.

NAMEADDRESS
POSTCODE
MY TOP FIVE GAMES ARE: 1:
2: 3:
5:
MY TOP THREE AMIGA GAMES ARE:
1: 2: 3:

AND DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR OWN ALTERNATIVE TOP TEN AS WELL!

MY FAVOURITE

ARCADE GAME IS:

SENDTO ZZAP! CHARTS, ZZAP! TOWERS, PO BOX 10, LUDLOW, SHROPSHIRE, SY8 10B

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

COMING SOON TO A SHOP THAT SELLS ZZAP! NEAR YOU FOR AN ASTOUNDING 30 DAY PERIOD . .

A NEW LOOK ISSUE!

In an attempt to become trendy, the ZZAP! reviewers buy orange flares, purple tank tops and rainbow-coloured wedges. No. Only kidding, ha, ha. In fact, we all go down to the pub, buy a bag of peanuts and take a fresh look at the way we review games. A bit of tweaking here and there (fnar, fnar, etc) and we come up with something better. Good, eh?

ALSO APPEARING . . .

Yes, it's the first ever edition of the ZZAP! Tips penned by everyone's

loveable Dangerous Flint-type person. Not only will Maff bring his un-funny knock knock jokes to this section, he'll also bring you tips, POKEs, maps, listings and cheat modes.

THE DEF GUIDE TO RACING GAMES

What do we mean by 'racing' games? Who knows? Tune in next month and find out!

AND THEN, OF COURSE, THERE'S REVIEWS OF . . .

Batman, Tiger Road, LED Storm, Afterburner, SDI, A Question Of Sport – all on the 64; AND Thunderblade, Arkanoid 2, SDI, Universal Military Simulator and World Class Leaderboard on the Amiga. On top of that there'll be even more larkabout reviewing japery with TONS more

SO WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW LOOK ISSUE, WIBBLING DOWN YOUR STREET ON FEBRUARY 16TH - YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!





